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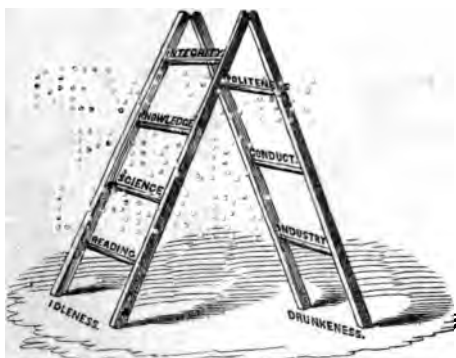
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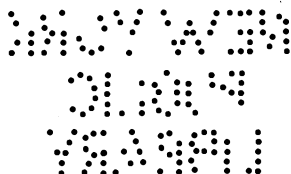
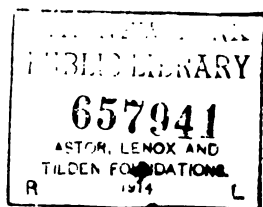
HINTS ON LIFE;
AND
HOW TO RISE IN SOCIETY.

BY
C. B. C. AMICUS.

Dum vivimus vivamus.



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HINTS ON LIFE.

YOUTHS BELONGING TO TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

EVERY one seeks happiness where he thinks he shall find it: those whose hearts and minds are sufficiently well constituted to entitle them to any chance of success in the search will discover that it is more equally distributed than might be supposed, and that it is unattainable by the envious, malevolent, idle, and dishonest alone. Health and contentment are, however, the foundation upon which the superstructure of enjoyment is built. With sound health, common checks and casualties are cheerfully borne; and to be content is to possess a sunshine of our own — an internal light to warm and cherish that cannot be extinguished. It is easy to reconcile contentment with a desire to rise in society. Being dissatisfied and repining is very

different from desiring to "get on." The industrious are seldom envious : they look forward to the improvement of their own lot, not aside at the lot of others ; they have no unreasonable expectations of jumping suddenly into fortune — are satisfied to advance calmly, are not cast down by those impediments that will occur ; and taste with double relish those occasional recreations that lay in their way. There is scarcely any feeling more injurious to the individual, or to the circle around us, than a dark dissatisfaction at the sight of neighbouring prosperity : some must necessarily have greater advantages than others, as perfect equality does not exist between any two things in nature. No two horses are of exactly equal speed — no two bulls of exactly equal strength — no two men of equal capacity ; and if all the distinctions and gradations resulting from civilisation were to be levelled, and mankind were to start afresh from a natural state, a short time would suffice to make them unequal again. Education is the most solid of all distinctions, and the most valuable possession which the chance of

birth can confer ; not thereby meaning birth to rank or fortune, but being born of parents competent to train the mind and heart from earliest infancy. Youth having such friends, such props and supports during its growth up to manhood, comes into busy life with the experience of two generations — its parents' and its own. From the first dawn of observation the child's inquiries are encouraged ; his inclinations playfully guided, not harshly forced ; and the bent and strength of his talents ascertained. From the habit of freely conversing with those who listen to him with kindness, but without partiality, he imperceptibly acquires the habit of reasoning, that is, of viewing subjects in different lights,—all the knowledge of life, in fact, the unpractised tyro can have, but which enables him to estimate, not blindly to follow, the views and opinions of his companions. It is difficult to mislead him ; and he has always a resource to fall back upon,—friends to whom he can with confidence impart his inmost thoughts : even supposing such friends should not possess superior intellects or acquirements, still the very act of con-

versing freely will tend to give clear and correct ideas. Talking over intentions and occurrences is like speaking in public, when the necessity of making thoughts clear to others compels the taking a clearer view of them yourself; and the candour incumbent upon a fair exposition of them brings to your own conviction their real value. It is an advantage to have some one who takes sufficient interest in your proceedings, — to say go on! or pause! upon occasions, as the judgment is dispassionate in the affairs of others, consequently more correct than in our own.

Reserve and harshness in parents causes cunning in childhood, and concealment in adolescence, and, in case of any indiscretion, however slight, leads on to deceit. The great variety of dispositions and tempers, however, renders any general system futile. Many shades of management are requisite; and as these begin to be developed with the first step of infancy, it is usually the mother's part then to guide and train them. Few with such care would grow up utterly incorrigible: the heart would incline

to right, if the head should stray ; the habit of confidence, and the remembrance of home—of that home where precepts, divine and human, came ever in the most engaging shapes—where the child, having ever been treated as a rational being, felt himself to be of importance — where his wishes and his innocent pleasures were consulted, would cause the youth to stop in any doubtful career, and go back to the haven from which he had started on the voyage of life. When breaking in a colt or pointer-puppy, their tempers must be consulted, the timid coaxed, the violent checked, the vicious chastised. How much more requisite is it to adapt the training of human beings to their dispositions !

At an early age the boy goes to school. It is not unusual to vaunt, among the advantages of schools, that they are an epitome of the world—that the boy there acquires strength to contend with rivals—that he gains some experience of human nature, and becomes fitted to make his way. Even at this early period the difference between those who receive constant and kind communication from home, and

those who are not so happy in that respect, is often remarkable. A manliness of bearing, an independence of spirit, is perceptible in those who have been accustomed to act, and to utter their thoughts, without disguise, and to whom the necessity of reservation has been unknown. The timid, or sneaking boy (to use a school-term), has usually been left in the back-ground, or turned over to the care and society of servants, and probably has acquired habits that not only check his progress among his companions, but seriously affect his rise in after-life. If the discipline of school is advantageous to the head, periodical holidays are no less beneficial to the heart and disposition. Some parents complain of the length of the vacations—occupying, as they usually do, at least a fourth part of the year. Surely one quarter part of the morning of existence will not be wasted, if giving the opportunity to watch the development of the mind, and of judging what career is the most likely to brighten, or the least to cloud, the long day that succeeds it.

When the youth is about to step into life the

choice of a profession or business is all-in-all important. Even to those born to fortune the selection of a pursuit is nearly as requisite. To force or over-persuade a youth to choose a career to which he is disinclined, or for which he is likely to be unfitted, is to plant a sapling in an uncongenial soil, and expect it nevertheless to flourish. Those whose situation leads to the adoption of a trade or business are usually transferred from home at an earlier period of life, and are therefore less competent to decide for themselves. In these cases (the most numerous, and including the greatest variety of classes) the choice will naturally rest with the parent. It will be guided very much by connection and circumstances; by having relatives in the same line; friends willing to receive the boy on advantageous terms; or by the prospect of succeeding to the business. These advantages, however, should not be put forward exclusively, but the irksome, or probably disagreeable parts be also candidly and perspicuously explained: it is the parent's office to lead, not peremptorily to prescribe a particular calling. It is

as needful to correct any casual and ill-grounded predilection a boy may have formed as to obviate prejudices and remove misapprehensions; so that the choice should be made upon no groundless expectations, and those little difficulties that occur in the outset of every situation be expected to come, and be cheerfully met. If the guidance has been both judicious and gentle, a boy will fancy that he has had his own choice, and consider himself bound to exertion, to industry, and perseverance. Considering the very early age at which the industrious, or middle class, are called into action, it is doubly necessary that their principles should be earlier and more carefully formed, and some foundation laid for the exercise of their understanding, so as to prevent, if possible, their becoming mere machines, animated only by pounds, shillings, and pence. In Britain, where fortune and rank are open to and attainable by all, it is well to begin by considering that mere wealth makes ignorance more glaring, and that every step higher up the hill of prosperity serves to make deficiencies more conspi-

cuous. Few traders, however, rise beyond a certain point, or wish to do so. To acquire competence is their end and aim, wherewith to pass the autumn and winter of their days in repose and respectability; but even these moderate desires cannot be attained without sowing the seed in the spring of their career, that shall produce such desirable fruit. It is true that an honest and industrious tradesman rarely fails to acquire money; but without some other attainments, without some cultivation of the understanding, without, in short, some pursuit independent of his business, the repose he looks forward to will be the hardest work he ever did in his life; and as for society, he will relish none, and be fitted for none beyond smoking his pipe in an alehouse; he will remain floating like a log on stagnant water. This is a common view of a result,—and is much too confined, as it omits the consequences of wanting something to occupy leisure hours—of not filling up rationally that vacant time the calls of business leave to be disposed of. It is too much the custom to bring forward instances of

wealth and success as those of happiness and enjoyment, to point out those as examples who have retired, or are reputed to be worth a certain sum, and to leave out the intermediate years. These years, however, although devoted to toil and to the cares of business, afford numerous gratifications; give many opportunities for harmless recreation; and may be so passed as to enrich the mind, and insure respect and consideration, even should circumstances not improve. Were it otherwise, thousands who pass their lives in trade and manufactures of various kinds might fairly complain of their lot, which seldom occurs when the heart is well disposed, and the mind is so far cultivated as to turn it from seeking amusement in debauch and sensuality: nothing but vice and actual want can be completely miserable; and the one usually produces the other. In tales of fiction, wealth is almost invariably represented as the forerunner of happiness, the hero or heroine come to be rich, and then "are very happy afterwards." In sober truth, from the outset of life there is some compensation: conquering diffi-

culties is in itself a pleasure ; and every action that can be reflected upon with complacency, every step in improvement, is accompanied by a feeling of content.

Throughout the metropolis, and the large commercial towns, youths from fourteen to seventeen years of age may be remarked at every turn, whose countenances have lost the careless expression of schoolboys, and whose quick gait and serious air indicate business. Whoever enters shops of different descriptions, and who are in the habit of looking into every page of that vast and intricate volume—mankind, must have observed that there is one, often several youths, whose air and manner, whose neatness and quickness, show some nurture : whoever walks the parks and suburban fields on Sunday must meet groups of these youths, well clad, and whose complexion and air of self-satisfaction evince health, and that the duties of the week have not been ill-performed. Few, however, will have considered that no other nation can show a population of the same class at all to be compared to them ;

and if they could be all collected “when drest in their Sunday clothes,” and drawn out in line, they would present a body of rising manhood, as pleasing to the eye of the philanthropist as tall grenadiers were to the view of Frederic of Prussia. This is not observed to feed their vanity, but to show that each is entitled to take a proper pride in his calling, and that they are individually bound to support the credit and respectability of a class,—worthy of regard, as containing the embryo of future commercial, consequently of national, prosperity. Considering the amount of property necessarily entrusted to these youths, it is of moment to commerce at large, that every one of them should reflect that a base action, or breach of trust, not only attaches disgrace to himself and to his own friends and parents, but also throws a discredit upon the whole of his brethren. On the other hand, considering that junior clerks are not over paid, that apprentices are often without money when their parents are in middling circumstances, that they have frequent access to cash, and that many

seductions and temptations lie in their way, it is matter of congratulation to observe how seldom wrong is committed, particularly among the wealthiest trades, where the trust is the greatest : cases, however, do occur, beginning in thoughtlessness in most instances, but leading to destruction if not checked in time. It will therefore not be amiss to point out the surest course to enable them to steer clear of those allurements which may turn them aside from the strict line of duty,—to show the difference between real and lasting and false and evanescent pleasures, and what is the right road, not only to fortune, but to the attainment of a solid position, claiming respect from all in after-life—in other words, to rise in society. It is not sufficient to go through daily duties, like a horse in a mill, merely because the master's eye is upon us : they should be done upon principle, and be well understood, otherwise they not only become irksome from their apparent sameness, but the slightest inducement—such as the word of an idle acquaintance, or a print-shop window—may break in upon the round, and cause the

first false step. The best preservative is to consider that we have a *mind*—that we have a talent for something which we may cultivate—that the head, like all other things in nature, cannot be a vacuum, and if empty of good will immediately admit bad ; thoughts will arise, and as no retail trade, or indeed any trade involving mere buying and selling, and not embracing any study of mechanics, can at the commencement fill the brain of youth—as those who attend in shops have some vacant time—as those who go to counting-houses may both before and after their hours of attendance secure two or three hours daily—as the blessed Sabbath occurs weekly, and affords five or six hours to be passed advantageously, it is not only our duty, but our interest, both temporal and eternal, well to weigh how we shall bestow them.

Idle and desultory reading is fraught with evil ; novels and tales of fiction, particularly to those who can have little time and opportunity for other reading, impart a maudlin sensibility and effeminate weakness, as destructive of sound judgment and

intellect as luxury and indulgence are of vigour of body—being mere froth at best,—leaving nothing behind. Biography may well be substituted as affording equal amusement, while the lives of such men as Dr. Franklin, Watt, Arkright, and Gifford show that to rise by perseverance is no romance. Mathematics are of all studies the most useful in every walk of life. A youth will exclaim, “How am I to learn mathematics?” The above-named examples answer, “Stick to one study, to one book, until it is mastered.” He who by his own application conquers first difficulties, he who solves a problem unassisted, will feel confident of his own powers, and will have made the first true step to independence. It is usual to caution all against falling into bad company: there can be none more seductive, or likely to mislead, than those imaginary ladies and gentlemen existing nowhere but in circulating libraries.* But youth cannot be ex-

* All novels are excepted as prejudicial to the age and class of persons in question: it must, however, be admitted that there are degrees of unfitness for youth among them. The

clusively confined to sedentary occupation : air and motion should be had : and those who are the most frequently sent out of doors have an advantage ; those who do not reside with their employers, or at the place of business, should choose an abode at least half an hour's walk from it, particularly if naturally indolent ; and the outskirts of towns usually contain more airy and cheaper houses and lodgings than the thickly-inhabited streets — a material consideration to large families. Gymnastic exercises promote growth and health. It is remarkable that expertness in feats of bodily address and strength is frequently found among mechanics, and trades the most confined, and that citizens excel countrymen in them : this arises from the change from sitting and confinement to activity and exertion, being the recreation of the former. Such skill

corner-stone of Walter Scott's fame is that there is not an immoral word or sentiment in the whole of his numerous works, which are widely different from Fielding and others, old and new, in this respect : yet even this great artificer of fictitious persons wrote tales expressly for his grandson, founded on history — strong evidence in favour of truth and real human beings.

is almost invariably an indication of energy of character, and is well looked upon, and popular. Swimming is perhaps the most conducive to health of all exercises, and may be gradually learnt with least violence of muscular exertion. How desirable it is that the custom of early bathing in and near London should be extended, and become as universal as possible, as it would, if safe and convenient baths were made and established either gratis or at a low rate.*

Infinite as is the variety of dispositions and degrees of talent and capability, so are there varieties of intellectual and laudable pursuits: some are

* The crowds flocking to the Serpentine every summer morning and evening show this; while the number of accidents that occur (many from bathing after dusk) ought to direct attention to some means of preventing them. This might be accomplished by a floating-bath, three hundred feet long and seventy feet broad, enclosed high enough to hide the interior, and with a bottom of wood four to five feet deep. It might be made ornamental in the shape of a castellated island. A large bath might be made in the Regent's Park, several on the Thames and on the river Lea, so as to afford safety, health, and cleanliness to the metropolis. Other towns would soon follow the example.

doubtless superior, and conduce more to success in life. All those, however, requiring thought and mental exertion are safe and innocent: the robust can take alternatè strong exercise with occasional study ; the more delicate and pensive, the dull and the quick, all but the downright idle, can have some acquirement to interest them, some pursuit to turn them from low and vicious habits. The Sunday ramble is nearly universal, and may be made not only with advantage to health, but so as to chime in with and assist the talent that has been cultivated during the week : the few hours given to any one accomplishment or science will render the Sunday walk more interesting, and the Sunday walk will, in return, give zest to the hours of private thought during the ensuing week.

The environs of most towns, particularly of London, are beautiful, and afford opportunities for sketching, which, with drawing, may be self-acquired. Botany : the fields abound in flowers and grasses well worth minute inspection and intimate acquaintance. Geology, and the nature of soils, which

leads to curious observings : for instance, it is not generally known that diamonds are found in the neighbourhood of London ; that they abound most about Highgate and Hampstead, and in other sandy and gravelly soils, in banks and ditches ; that these diamonds are equal in beauty to, and want only the weight and solidity of, brilliants of the East : that jewellers are well acquainted with them, and that they occupy incrustations of particular form. Every animal that grazes or ruminates, every bird that flutters by, or opens its little throat, is worthy of remark,—if for no other purpose, to make the walk interesting, and to expand the heart in admiration of the works of a beneficent Providence ; to worship him in his works, after the service in his house.

He who is sufficiently acquainted with astronomy to know the positions of the stars ; he who on plucking a flower or weed, and examining its petals, can class it ; he who can look at quadruped, bird, or insect with some previous knowledge of their habits and formation, has the same superiority over ignorance that he who can read has over him who

cannot: a book to the former is a pleasure; to the latter all confusion.

How preferable is any pursuit of the above-named description to sitting out the long summer evening, with a pipe of tobacco in the mouth, as youths, and girls too looking on, may be seen to do; thus doubling the evil of such waste of health and degradation of intellect: it is a sorry sight, which can alone be taken from before our eyes by persuasion and instruction. If lads were brought up with a taste for something better, lasses would acquire it too, would take interest in the objects nature presents to their eye, or look on and encourage friendly trials of speed and strength, and join in them.

During the winter months, when days close at four o'clock, young people are more dependant upon their friends and employers for opportunities of improvement; there is apparently more time to read: but houseroom, fire, and light being necessary, heads of families and establishments decide, in great measure, whether that time shall be lost

or not.* Even aspiring and energetic youths, who set out with a determination to mount, and who, although beginning under disadvantages, still look forward to step beyond the lowest rounds of the ladder of life, will find their means scarcely adequate to furnishing the books and implements requisite for their pursuit, whatever it may be. To the larger mass,—the numbers with whom the passing moment is all, who want encouragement, and should have inducements and facilities to preserve them from vacancy of thought and consequent mischief—the want of some accommodation is an immediate sentence of banishment into the streets, furnishing

* The exertions lately made to induce tradesmen to close their shops at an earlier hour are a gratifying sign of the decay of miscalculating selfishness and avarice; if every shop-keeper would reckon up fairly how much he usually sells after 7 o'clock, and put against it the expense of lights, the destruction of the bodily energies of his servants and of himself, and the fostering of disinclination and discontent in their minds, he would discover that he might be humane at a very cheap rate. Female shoplifters and swell-mob, of course, prefer purchasing, or pretending to do so, after their enemy, the sun, has retired.

an excuse to themselves for idleness at first, and for vice afterwards.

While it cannot be too strenuously enforced upon the attention of young men that success in life must depend upon themselves, and that it will be poor consolation, in case of failure, to have a shadow of excuse, or to be able to throw some share of blame upon others, or upon fate, it cannot be denied that parents, masters and employers, and the public at large, are bound to contribute in every way towards smoothing the up-hill path. It is the duty, and should be the delight, of parents early to procure elementary books, and to impart all the instruction their own powers can give ; then all that their means can obtain ; and, if those means be wanting, to endeavour to have a child placed where he will be taught free of charge : not in either case for the sake of getting him out of the way, not sending him to school to take his chance, but to be welcomed home whenever holidays occur, his progress encouraged, his little errors kindly corrected, and the bent of his growing disposition studied. There are few parents so dull as not to be able to discover the

real inclination of a child, if they give themselves the trouble to ascertain it, or who fail to gain his confidence and affection, when they show care for him, and that they take interest in him.

Handed over to a master or employer when the time arrives, if either by apprenticeship or agreement a youth is to reside entirely with him, it is the master's interest to make the new abode a home, and, while he preserves that distance requisite for due subordination, to show that he is not indifferent as to general welfare,—to make it thoroughly felt that it is not in the shop or warehouse, or when employed in the business, he alone cares about conduct; and to promote the improvement, and assist by every means in his power the cultivation of any talent. It is not enough to tell a lad that he must avoid this — and do that — that he may go here — but should not go there. He must be armed with a motive, and be shielded from evil, by finding amusement, and taking interest in what is good.

Among the thousands employed in trade, manufactures, and commerce, there are many ranks and

gradations, at the outset, from the errand-boy up to the clerk, and apprentice paying a high premium, every one of whom may have a chance of rising if he possess the necessary qualification to enable him to take advantage of that chance when it occurs: a reputation for strict integrity is of paramount importance, without which skill and talents are comparatively unavailing. It is upon the scale of intellect and moral qualities of this numerous and important part that the whole population takes its tone and character. Masters and employers, therefore, whether of numbers or of one only, should take care that proper books are accessible, furnished either at their own expense, or, still better, if the young people are assisted to procure them, as it is natural to prize what is our own. Where numbers are employed variety is requisite, so that each may obtain what is adapted to the bent of his mind,—all connected with some science, knowledge, or accomplishment.* The simple familiarity with, or being

* Outlines of perspective, a few pencils and paper, the notes of music, so that reading them may be acquired; intro-

accustomed constantly to see and hear of, such books will take away the sort of awe that knowledge occasions to the totally ignorant; and as rudiments are usually the most revolting part, and the most difficult to be got over in after-life, having been acquainted even slightly with them in youth may cause a science to be taken up and cultivated when leisure and opportunity serve, and to be welcomed as an acquaintance instead of being disregarded as a perfect stranger.

As it requires something beyond being merely able to read and write to afford the probability of rising above mentioned, or to have an advantage at starting over the lowest and most ignorant, by being placed, as it were, at once within the pale of the better instructed at the early age of from thirteen to fifteen, to neglect a child in infancy is to doom him to remain where he begins. It is for the public to establish schools, to bring the facility

ductions to astronomy, botany, geology, natural history, mathematics, geography, and other elements of knowledge that may now be had at small cost; history of England, good biography.

within every one's reach ; but real progress must depend upon parents or friends : judicious correction and encouragement result from an intimate acquaintance with disposition, and, whether means prescribe the charity school, day school, or boarding school, cannot in either be applied so appropriately as at home. The public of towns, at least, might continue a step further ; might provide books for masters, employers, and parents also, and implements, at a moderate rate ; establish libraries, book-societies, or reading-rooms for lads, with lectures adapted to their wants and capacities, including those of young women too ; and cause works of art to be accessible during hours of recreation, which would be an advantage.* It should not be forgotten that masters, employers, and parents compose this public, and that it therefore depends upon them whether there shall really be education or not ; that is, the opportunity of culti-

* If the British Museum and National Gallery were open in summer from six to eight or nine o'clock, the rising generation might be more benefited by them.

vating the mental faculties as they develop themselves, of pursuing that self-instruction which can alone bring talents to some maturity, and give the means of rising and distinguishing themselves to those who, either by some peculiar talent, or by the power of close application, are enabled and inclined to step before their fellows.

MECHANICS.

HAVING arrived at the age of eighteen or nineteen, the youth who has acquired some little knowledge, who has made some progress in any science or accomplishment, will begin to have a foretaste of rising, by feeling that he is appreciated; and, by the involuntary respect that his comrades will pay to him, he will already be something: he will have a possession, and that by right of the most legitimate of all conquests; he will have made an inroad into the domain of science, and carried off a precious spoil that no one can take away from him. In order to arrive at this desirable point, it may not be amiss again to give the caution—*stick to one thing until it is mastered*: mere desultory reading for amusement is not study, and will leave little that is solid behind it. Drawing a few outlines

from a copy is not art, nor can it ever lead to it ; but the true principles of perspective may be as easily acquired with scale, compasses, and an elementary book. Knowing a few notes by ear, and making out a tune on any instrument, is not music ; the scale of notes, either vocal or instrumental, must be studied : in short, it is necessary, in these and in all other accomplishments, to begin at the beginning, otherwise the result will be a mere smattering, that will excite ridicule instead of admiration.

In sciences exclusive attention to one is still more requisite ; there are few who excel in more than one, even among those persons who have no business to attend to : how much more requisite, then, is it that the few leisure hours of a young tradesman or mechanic should be devoted to one solid acquirement, that is, if he desire to do something more than merely to amuse himself for the moment. Perhaps this may be the secret of a useful education, as it disciplines the mind while progressing in the science, whatever it may be that is chosen, and gives a habit of

perseverance not easily to be turned aside. Youth is beset with literary as well as other temptations: the numerous periodicals with which the press of the present day teems are alone sufficient to bewilder the choice, and, being mostly devoted to passing events and evanescent subjects, are fitter to beguile the tedium of age than to promote the education of youth. The first and material step for a young man is to find out to what science or accomplishment he is most inclined. The selection being made, it is incumbent on his parents, guardians, friends, and on his master, to promote his progress in it, and to furnish him with the requisite books and instruments, and to give him every facility and encouragement.

While advocating the advantages of cultivating the mind, as leading both to happiness and to distinction, it must not be forgotten that there is at the same time an indispensable necessity, namely, to be master of his trade or calling, whatever it may be: a good tradesman, an expert workman, will obtain employment, and command good wages ;

while an indifferent one may seek both in vain. His skill is (as it were) his estate, into possession of which he steps when his term of apprenticeship is out. Few possess capital sufficient, or find a favourable opportunity, to establish themselves as masters at the age of twenty-one; and it may not be amiss to gain a little more experience, and to bustle somewhat with the world as shopman, or journeyman, before the control of others, and the cares and responsibilities of business, are undertaken: but with an unblemished character, and with the reputation of being a good workman, which, in all probability, will be known in his trade, he will be sought for, and be treated with all the consideration he deserves.

There is no position in life more conducive to happiness than that of the journeyman who unites readiness of hand with some cultivation of head. Work, to which the sons of Adam are all condemned, is to him from habit light; he is not troubled with those fanciful refinements which often annoy the spoilt children of fortune, who make themselves a

sort of employment in aiming at unattainable luxuries. He takes the rough and the smooth as it comes; no crumpled rose-leaf disturbs his repose; and he will be turned from the abyss of coarser sensualities by the bias of his mind towards purer pleasures: he has no anxiety about customers, or the rise and fall of markets,—sufficient for the week are the wages thereof. Whatever the amount of these wages may be, the whole, however, should not be expended. We are all subject to accidents and to ill health: to meet such casualties something should be laid aside: work is seldom so constant as to prevent the loss of an occasional day or two, by which the improvident are driven to the pawnbroker, or to beg an advance from their employers; thereby depriving themselves of that independence which enables them to hold up their heads, and to be trusted and respected.

There is a custom in London, and in other cities, that both masters and journeymen might unite to abolish with advantage—that of making public-houses their houses of call. The necessity of resorting to these temples of drink must involve some ex-

pense, and that not fixed and controlled beforehand : what is worse, it may lay the foundation of a habit of frequenting them. A small contribution weekly would secure a room for this purpose, where a few useful books might take the place of beer and gin-and-water ; or coffee-shops, now to be found in every district, might be substituted. A single young man thrown upon town, unless he has been very careful and fortunate in the selection of his lodging, may not find himself sufficiently comfortable in them to be induced there to sit down and occupy his leisure hours. As clubs exist for all sorts of purposes, and as trades unite to protect their interests in various ways, they could scarcely do so more effectually than by having their own places of meeting, not in public-houses : spirits and tobacco are evident superfluities, destructive both of health and economy ; beer can seldom be got genuine and wholesome, as is usually the case with highly-taxed articles, and, as Dr. Franklin proved, does not promote strength or vigour : he himself, upon pure water, lifted heavier weights, and worked at the

printing press for more hours consecutively without fatigue, than any of his fellow-workmen : the consequence was that on pay-night he had the whole of his earnings to receive, and began laying by at an early age ; forming the nucleus of that fortune which ultimately raised him to be the companion of princes, and to stand forward as one of the honoured founders of a mighty republic.

A great step was made towards the improvement of the industrious classes by the establishment of the London Mechanics' Institution, under the auspices of Dr. Birkbeck and others, in 1823, for the diffusion, by means of *lectures*, a library, and reading-rooms, of those branches of science appropriate to their avocations : similar institutions had previously existed in Birmingham and in Scotland ; but the example of the metropolis led to their establishment in most of the towns in the kingdom.

The habits of the continental nations are generally more simple than those of the British islands ; but it must be confessed that they are inferior to us in strength and endurance, which may arise from their

consuming less animal food, not from a less frequent resort to stimulating drinks, as their effect is but momentary, leaving languor and lassitude behind. Those who have witnessed the luxury it affords in other countries to the poorest inhabitants will regret that the juice of fruits, in an unfermented state, should never have been turned to account in England, where the currant and raspberry flourish most luxuriantly. Their juices, pressed out and put in a cool place, will keep without sugar a length of time, just as lime-juice is imported, and may be sweetened to the palate when used, furnishing a beverage wholesome, refreshing, and invigorating. It is possible that this generation may live to see currant and raspberry plantations as they now see hop-grounds : their produce would be more certain, less subject to the casualties of blight, and, if a taste for innocent, unintoxicating, home-brewed should prevail, be quite as profitable.

Arrived at the age of 25, and possessed of a moderate sum, a young man will naturally turn his thoughts to marriage. Should his choice of a com-

panion for life be made with reference more to industry, cheerfulness, and good temper, than to mere beauty of person, or to the possession of a few pounds, misnamed a fortune, he will enter his new, his own home with every prospect of peace and happiness. To expect uninterrupted sunshine would be unreasonable : clouds will occasionally pass over us all ; but what can tend to mitigate their gloom more effectually than the cheerful welcome and consoling voice of her who is to share them ! If a man has acquired the respect of his comrades, and the confidence of his employers, when single, he will certainly lose nothing of either by marriage ; his family is a security to society at large, not only for a continuance of good conduct, but for the exercise also of the higher duties of charity and urbanity : he may often be enabled to turn an erring youth from wrong ; his persuasion will have more weight, and his example be undeniable evidence of what good sense can effect. Who shall say that he has not attained a position in society ? Who can deny that he is one of those pillars, minute though it be, by

which the greatness and prosperity of his country are supported?

Common sense, like common land, becomes valuable when appropriated, and cultivated to bear that crop best adapted to the wants of its occupier : to the working man it insures contentment, industry, and economy ; to his wife, neatness, cheerfulness, and good management ; the harvest is in the suffrages of all around him, that he is in every way trustworthy. The merchant, the established tradesman, the independent, the rich, even the richest, will make but sorry figures if they hold their heads so high as to overlook this humble plant which chokes the weeds of selfishness and ostentation : without it, both their expenditure and deportment are capricious, and they will be liable to be the dupes of the designing : with it, they will be affable to all, and liberal upon such sound principles as will not only be satisfactory to themselves, but will induce others to observe "that man deserves his fortune."

TRADESMEN.

HAVING proved, or endeavoured to do so, that shopmen, journeymen, and mechanics of all descriptions may be respected if they choose, and admitting that, from their numbers and their utility, they occupy a large space on the map of society, it cannot be denied that their grade is below that of their employers. The universal assent of mankind places those who work with their heads above those who work with their hands, accords the place to those capable to direct an undertaking, and to combine the power of many for the production of one result. This may be grating to the feelings of conceit, and annoying to ill-directed ambition. As, however, it has been a fact from the days of our first parents downwards, and as all attempts to change it have

invariably ended in reverting back to the original order of things, let us consider it to be an immutable law of nature, and console ourselves with the reflection that those who direct have usually more cares and anxieties than those who are directed. The journeyman may leave his work at the appointed hour, and seek recreation or repose, with the certainty that, without trouble to him, the work of the morrow will be adapted to his capacity ; while the tradesman who employs him may have perplexities as to the extent of his means, must have forethought to provide for his payments, and the maintenance of his credit, and be perhaps troubled with doubts as to the marketable effect and value of the article he has designed and ordered.

A young man who considers himself entitled to take the position of a tradesman, either by means of his own resources, by the assistance of his friends, or by the support of wholesale houses, becomes, both by law and usage, a part of the body politic of England : as a juryman, he may sit on matters of

life and death, vote for a representative in parliament, and be of some weight in his parish. This is promotion, bringing with it frequently many toils and cares.

Those who have the opportunity of purchasing the good-will of an established business, or a share as partners, start with a comparatively easy task. Stock in trade is, however, not bank stock, but requires caution and diligence to improve, or even to keep it.

To open a new shop, and begin an establishment even with the requisite capital in hand, is a serious undertaking, that demands considerable judgment, to be followed by the exercise of much patience. Many a weary hour may pass in waiting for customers; and when they drop in, it may be difficult to distinguish between a spurt arising from mere curiosity, or the hope of a bargain from "*the man just set up*," and that regular flow of trade which is the shopkeeper's object; firmness and manner can convert the former into the latter. Servility is not exactly civility; and declining to sell under the price asked

leads to a conclusion favourable to honesty and fair dealing.

The risk and cares of those who start upon borrowed capital, or credit, are of course greater.

Dealers in the necessaries of life have some slight advantage in being less subject than other trades to whim and caprice : fashion affects them but little ; and, unless competition in their neighbourhood be excessive, they may count upon a regular trade from the commencement.

Various are the means resorted to to attract customers : little fortunes are laid out in mahogany windows and plate glass, which, if they do little good to individuals, tend to ornament the streets : advertising is in many cases effectual, although it savours a little of quackery. To these there can be no moral objection ; but there is an expedient highly reprehensible — that of bribing servants. This custom probably owes its origin to short-sighted cunning, and was voluntary on the part of the givers ; now it has grown up to be exacted as a sort of right. The usual per centage is a heavy tax upon tradesmen,

who ought to strive to abolish it, and to be strenuously supported by masters in the attempt.

It is most essential to the tradesman to have a thorough knowledge of markets, and of the qualities and prices of the articles in which he deals. He should know both where and how to buy : his reputation, as well as his profits, depend upon this. A purchaser upon whom an inferior article has been put off will seldom return, and if of the fairer sex, will be certain to make it known to others : he who has bought too dear must either have less profit or be undersold by his neighbours.

The majority of trades unite manufacturing, so far as making up, or completing to order, or for sale. To endeavour to disguise slovenly workmanship or coarse materials is very bad policy, and will be in the end injurious to themselves out of all proportion to the small temporary gain they may imagine to be secure. But wilfully to adulterate any article of food, or of general consumption, is iniquitous. It is matter of surprise that the law has not awarded a severer punishment for this serious offence ; while

its utmost rigour has been exerted against the forger of a bank-note, and long imprisonment inflicted for killing a hare : those who poison their customers, or cheat them with false weights, are liable to inadequate fines only.

It constantly occurs in London and in other towns to see shops inscribed " selling off at prime cost," " awful sacrifice," " tremendous failure," and goods ticketed at prices so low as to be a certificate that they are either good for nothing, dishonestly come by, or are to be got rid of for a dishonest purpose. Those who make purchases at such places are accessories to the roguery, whatever it may be : and let all those who hunt after bargains, particularly of shirts and other made-up articles of dress, consider that the cheapness mainly arises from the sufferings of poor sempstresses. A cry has occasionally been raised against tradesmen for paying workwomen so badly : purchasers should surely bear a part of the blame, especially those who have the superintendence of contracts for clothing. Competition is the ground of the evil, which might be

mitigated by individuals showing a willingness to pay a fair price, and by ladies, who are generally aware of the time and labour needlework requires, seeking what is good instead of what is cheap.

These glances at a few of the tricks of trade have not been made with a view of lowering tradesmen as a body. Tricking is the exception, not the rule, and never was, nor ever will be, of permanent advantage: it may obtain a few pounds, but cannot rise to respectability.

Thirty years ago retail trade was mostly conducted on a different footing from that of the present day. High charges and long credits, at much risk, were then prevalent. The actual system is more in accordance with the true principles of trade; and, although the profits of some fashionable tailors and jewellers may be lessened, the whole body is in a healthier state. The alteration of the law abolishing arrest on mesne process has taken away an odious power from creditors of all descriptions, which will not be regretted by the fair-dealing tradesman. One of the first of those shops

established on a larger scale, upon the principle of small profits with ready-money payment, was Mr. Flint's, Grafton House. It might reasonably be supposed that he, who saw the evils of credit, and had resolved to avoid its dangers, would not be selected as the victim of those who have an insurmountable objection to paying. A singular trick was, however, played off upon him. A lady called one day in a handsome equipage, and selected a variety of silks and other expensive goods, which, being put into her carriage, she requested Mr. Flint to accompany her home to receive payment for them, to which he assented. They were driven to a large house in the outskirts of town, where she alighted, requesting her companion to wait a moment. The house was a private mad-house. The lady, giving herself some high name to the keeper, told him that her poor husband was at the gate; that she had brought him there in consequence of a strange delusion that had seized him, that of fancying himself to be Mr. Flint, the haberdasher; and that she had taken his goods without paying for them; ad-

ding that, as he was occasionally violent, she would leave him there at once — weeping all the time most becomingly. Servants were sent to request Mr. Flint to walk in, which he did; when the lady walked out at an opposite door of the room, regained the carriage, and drove off with the goods. After waiting a short time, Mr. Flint naturally became impatient, and the medical gentleman made his appearance, of whom Mr. Flint made anxious inquiries after the lady; to which he received very civil, but evasive answers, and a squeeze of the hand, or rather of the pulse. Beginning to get alarmed about his goods, he of course pressed his inquiries, and stated that he was Mr. Flint the haberdasher. “Of course, I know you are,” said the doctor; “be calm—be calm.” “Zounds, sir, where are my goods? where is the lady?” “Don’t excite yourself, my good friend; you are safe here.” “Safe, sir! Where are my goods?” “You shall see,” said the doctor, ringing the bell in a peculiar way, which brought a couple of stout attendants. Mr. Flint stared at them, and began to be considerably excited, as well as

alarmed. The more he called himself Mr. Flint, and cried out after his goods, the more mad he was considered to be; and soon found himself in a strait waistcoat. After the lapse of a few days, he seized an opportunity of throwing a slip of paper over the wall, and his place of his retreat was revealed to his anxious friends. He returned to his shop fully resolved never to let any thing go out of it without previous payment on any pretext whatever.

The commencement of a shopkeeper's career is one of struggle and self-denial—with this peculiarity, that, unlike the artisan who can take his skill with him wherever he goes, the tradesman is tied down to one spot, and must there wait, without having the amusement that manual occupations afford. If he has so managed his capital as to have a fair sum in reserve, after his shop is fitted up, and his stock laid in, he will be less anxious, but he cannot without imprudence enter into any superfluous expense whatever. Although obliged to keep up a respectable appearance, it must be regulated by the strictest economy and judgment, as, once embarked, he can-

not retrograde or retrench without injuring his credit. He can enter into no dissipation, nor indulge in expensive amusements, to beguile the tedium and monotony of his hours. His home is, or ought to be, all in all, the comforts of which depend first upon himself, and, if married, upon the habits of the wife he has chosen : a gentle, considerate helpmate will cheer and assist him ; a vulgar, dressy, ostentatious woman will be his ruin.

Under these circumstances, or, indeed, under any circumstances, what an advantage is the having some literary or scientific resource ? What can be more tiresome, or a severer trial of temper, spirit, and energy, than waiting for a result, after efforts have been made, and nothing active remains to be done ? To sit with a vacant mind, pondering over probabilities, and hoping and expecting from day to day, will have an influence upon the bearing, and interfere with that natural suavity of manner so necessary to recommend both his goods and the tradesman himself to the public ; he will be soured, and be continually acting a difficult part, to prevent

its being observed ; while the temptation to seek some excitement abroad will be almost irresistible. On the other hand, the mind that is occupied is naturally strengthened, and is more readily made up to wait an event ; it is an unfailing antidote against anxiety, and a diversion from useless fretting that leaves no sting behind.

If money be the capital of trade, education is the capital of happiness.

In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the steady persevering tradesman is rewarded by seeing his calf grow by just degrees into a cow : if his success has been gradual, it is the more permanent, as trees of slow growth last the longest. The reverse of the account may be taken of the speculative, presumptuous, and imprudent : these as rarely succeed ; they rather pass away like wills of the wisp, leaving no trace but in the records of the bankrupts' court. •

Great is, indeed, the reward, and unalloyed the satisfaction of those who have arrived at the means, enabling them to take that position in society at

which they have aimed ; the country villa will realise those enjoyments their simple tastes have often planned ; their acquaintance will be sought by the good and the wise, and they can educate and bring up their families to professions, and send them to occupy advantageous posts in the colonies of the extensive British empire, with the heart-felt consolation that their own, and their children's rise, has been the work of their own prudence, perseverance, and honesty.

FACTORY OPERATIVES.

THE most striking change that has occurred in the habits of the British people during the last half century, has been wrought by the enormous increase of factories of different kinds, raised, and forced into rank and luxuriant growth by means of discoveries, inventions, and improvements, that have caused inanimate machinery to supersede living hands, and concentrated in large buildings the men, women, and children, formerly dispersed over the country side, who plied their tasks at home. Watt improved the steam engine in 1764,—James Hargreaves invented the spinning jenny, applicable for weft threads only, in 1767,—Arkwright invented the spinning frame, assisted by John Kay, in 1769. Since 1785, when Arkwright's patent expired, Crompton invented the mule jenny, and the Rev.

Mr. Cartwright the power loom. These have added to the wealth and resources of the empire in an extraordinary degree, and have had influence of more importance upon mankind in general, than all the contemporary transactions of war and diplomacy, eventful as they were.

Their first effects have been that the spinning wheel no longer buzzes in the cottage,—the loom is nearly silenced, little is heard of it but the last gasp of annihilation, under the pressure of its powerful neighbours : while the increase of wealth and commerce is undeniable. Whether individual happiness has been decreased, is a disputed point. During any transition, those that are established are displaced, and either lose their employment altogether, or are at least annoyed by being obliged to change their habits. More hands are however employed by the aid of machinery, than ever could have been occupied at home, and the demand for clothing of all kinds, and the competition caused by such demand, had already rendered excessive the labour of domestic weaving ; in fact, machinery grew up

from this demand, and then, by lowering prices, increased both the demand and supply : therefore, the imagination that travels back to dream of valleys, brooks, mountain-sides, and graceful forms trudging to market, should peep into the interior, when the usual compound of good and evil will be evident.

The economist may admit that bringing masses of human beings to one spot is destructive of simplicity, but will add that other qualities will remain, and be of a higher order ; that they will be no longer passive, no longer the mere result of the absence of temptation, that the faculties are sharpened by the collision of crowds, and that opportunities of instruction can be more easily and effectually supplied to those congregated together.

The apprentices and journeymen of the old crafts, including labourers in husbandry, were regulated as to hours of work by custom. Although, as long ago as 1496, Henry VII., the hours of labour were fixed by statute at 14,—deducting 3 for meals and

repose during the day, it is well known that the ploughman unyokes, the mason, the carpenter, the gardener, in short, most journeymen, leave off work, whatever the competition in their callings may be, after 12 hours, deducting 2 for meals, and that overwork is at their own option, and is paid for. Custom regulated their hours, according to the common powers of man.

The factory mill-owners, being a new race, soon imposed a severe time of toil, 14, 15, 16 hours at a stretch, and continued so to do with little or no interruption until 1802, when the legislature interfered to limit the hours of labour of apprentices in woollen and cotton mills to 12,—deducting 3 for meals, and further enacted, that they should be *instructed every day in reading, writing, and arithmetic*, during the first four years of apprenticeship.

This was the first benefit derived from concentration. Several acts, regulating the hours of factory labour, have been passed since, down to the last, 1844, which forbids any child being employed under 8 years of age, limits the working hours of those

under 13 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and of all women and young persons above 13, to 12 hours.

If such masses had never been brought together, it would have been almost impossible for the law to have interfered, as it could not have done so without an army of inspectors being empowered to enter every house ; and there can be little doubt that individual cupidity, as demand and competition increased, would have imposed the same or heavier tasks upon women and children,—nay, on the men themselves, too, in their own homes,—than those exacted in the factories. Another good has resulted from the exposure of such excessive toil : attention has been drawn to many other occupations, and a sympathy—a better feeling—has been roused with regard to long hours, which is beginning to have extensive influence, which will, in time, correct the abuses of all avaricious employers, and may even mitigate the tyranny of competition, of that despot that rules with an iron hand the amount of earnings, or the equivalent hours of labour. The first step towards correcting an evil is to make it known.

The consumer will have learnt to feel for those who supply him, and we may hope that habits and customs will be established, that are ever more powerful than laws.

The manufacturing towns have grown up from mere villages to rival in size and in wealth their antique sisters; their progress has been the more rapid from the absence of guilds, and corporation privileges, which fettered the elder; they have also taken the lead in an essential point, that of furnishing facilities for the instruction of their youths. The Athenæum at Manchester, the Institution at Birmingham, do infinite credit to those towns, and give an example to be followed by every other town, village, and hamlet, in a proportionate degree, according to their size and means.

The Athenæum of Manchester has between seventeen and eighteen hundred members; the number shows that they consist principally of clerks, apprentices to trades, and of the sons of persons in easier circumstances, who come under the category mentioned in a previous page; and who, it is ear-

nestly hoped, will take advantage of, and derive solid profit from, the opportunity so liberally afforded to them ; that each will endeavour to master at least some one science or accomplishment, exclusive of his calling : first, on account of his own internal happiness ; secondly, because he who can give correct information upon any one subject, or is tolerably skilled in one art, is always more welcome in society, and more fitted to shine in it ; thirdly, because manners and bearing will be influenced, to the exclusion of awkwardness, shyness, sullenness, and bearishness, that are generally occasioned by a feeling of inferiority : low company is sought when we suspect ourselves to be unfit for higher.

The great mass of operatives remains. According to the returns of 1828, there were 32,000 undowered schools, and 1,500,000 children of the working classes then receiving primary instruction ; proving, as is conjectured, that but few are without the opportunity of acquiring the elements, namely, reading, writing, and ciphering. Whenever the opportunity exists, it is the fault of parents if chil-

dren do not try to learn : it is the duty of all having care of children, up to the age of ten at least, to compel them to go to school, and to use every means to induce the little creatures to improve themselves.

Having acquired those elements, they will possess the tools of knowledge ; but, as possession of a box of tools never yet made a carpenter, so, reading, writing, or even arithmetic, will not correct the heart, or fill the head, unless they be handled expertly, and applied to good purpose. It is not the acquisition, but the application of these rudiments, that can raise the social condition of the working classes.

An influence upon their conduct and domestic habits is the foremost effect of some knowledge ; they learn to be their own friends. It is impossible that any factory can be so conducted as to provide the same quantity of work and wages all the year round ; they must fluctuate, particularly those dependent upon foreign markets, for the sale of their produce. The ignorant and improvident who ex-

pend their full earnings when trade is brisk, must starve when work is slack, or sink down into the degradation of pauperism. Those who, from the want of some better occupation, of some resource, resort to dissipation, and to the indulgence of their bodies for recreation, are but a slight degree removed from the grade of irrational animals. The joint earnings of the families of operatives are generally adequate to their rational wants, and they should be able to perceive that the only way to rise is by mental acquirements, and by saving. That some do rise to be masters is well known; but every man raises both himself and his family, whether he step beyond his class or not, who is better clothed, better fed, better lodged than his equals, and who is looked up to by them.

Put this important point another way: Suppose their wages to be merely adequate to their wants, or even inadequate; that their occupation is monotonous and tiresome, and the number of hours of labour excessive; does it mend the matter, because they want other blessings, that they themselves assist

in destroying the greatest of all—health? Does the public house at night, or the morning dram, increase either their means or their strength? On the contrary, they destroy both.

The true friend to the working man will not encourage him in bewailing his position, but rather lead him to enquire whether he has looked within ; and instead of attributing all the evils he endures to others, whether he has considered if they may not, in some measure, have been increased by himself?

Downright penury and misery make life a blank ; it is a grievous reflection that such exist all over the world. Would to God every one could have a good day's wages for a good day's work all the year round ; that all who have would employ and pay one or more who have not, according to their means ; and that all earnings should be well applied to satisfy real wants !

This utopian wish can never be realised until mankind becomes so enlightened as that every one shall clearly see his own interests. At present,

although a considerable impulse has been given of late to considerate feelings on the part of the rich, still too much individual selfishness remains; and although the poor have had opportunities of learning better, they still are but indifferent managers of their own affairs, and bad economists.

Since the establishment of charity schools in 1698, and of Sunday schools in 1781, the greatest increase of primary instruction was given by means of infant schools in 1818.

By the parliamentary reports on criminal commitments and convictions in 1828, it appeared that offences against property had increased considerably, but that the more atrocious class of crimes, those directed against the person, had not increased in proportion to population; and that life and limb were never less exposed to violence. This contemporaneous growth of instruction and offences has been pointed at maliciously on some occasions; and with the usual want of candour in those who would have the world stand still if they could, other and more obvious causes of so sad an effect were sup-

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pressed. The establishment of a more vigilant police might alone suffice to account for the detection of a greater number of offenders ; but suppose we admit, for the sake of argument, that reading, writing, and arithmetic had imparted more covetousness of other men's goods, and more cunning in the ways of acquiring them, what does it prove? Not that a partial misapplication ought to weigh down a general good, but that we have not gone far enough ; that we must not halt at the threshold ; that, having opened the door of knowledge, we must usher all candidates for admission into the private apartments. We must prove her to be not an exclusive goddess, but accessible to all who seek her acquaintance.

A child is sent out to take exercise with a view to getting an appetite : suppose, on its return, nothing but trifles and comfit puffs are placed before it, the child is made sick. Having by reading, writing, and ciphering excited an appetite for mental food, should it be fed with ballads, the life of Jonathan Wild, other more modern idle tales

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of the sort, or police reports, the part of newspapers the most read by juvenile inquisitiveness? Will not minds become sick and vitiated? Bad books are worse than none.

How is this serious turning of good into evil to be obviated? How are we to induce small publishers to forego issuing penny numbers of the *Mysteries of Paris*, the *Wandering Jew*, and of other mawkish interruptions of real improvement? As supply follows demand, by creating a desire for something better. As for reading, suppose no progress to have been made beyond it, there are histories, and lives of honest and great men, quite as interesting as those of banditti and love-sick damsels; questions in figures and the solution of sums from the rule of three to decimal fractions might interest young arithmeticians as much as riddles, with as little expense of thought, and much more profit to themselves.

It is most material to substitute a wholesome appetite in place of this sickly craving. I will venture to suggest a method of so doing, namely,

by giving familiar lectures on points of knowledge and of science, with such illustrations, by the assistance of instruments, as shall make the latter as interesting as conjuring.

Might not this be not only the most effectual, but the cheapest mode of spreading real education? Parliament voted 30,000*l.* for this purpose: apply it to paying 1000 itinerant lecturers, 300*l.* a-year each, or 1500, 200*l.* a-year each, and in a short space of time sufficient knowledge of the right sort would be distributed in every corner of the kingdom to excite a desire for more. In the present struggle for employment, there would be little difficulty in finding the number of educated persons competent to such employment: each might easily read up for any occasion, if not previously prepared for it, and “amaze the unlearned *without* making the learned smile.”

The prevailing ignorance, even upon the commonest subjects, is revolting—those of household economy, and cookery, for instance. In ninety-nine cottages and other homes of working men

out of a hundred there is none of either. Simply to point out how they are cheated, and how they cheat themselves, would be useful. Show a real tea-leaf, and compare it with what they buy, and in all probability it will appear that theirs might as well have been gathered out of the nearest hedge.

The prevalence of drinking tea upon all occasions arises from a wish for something warm, and from its temporary stimulating effect upon the nerves—refreshing, it is true, after repletion, but exhausting in the end to the scantily fed. Without the addition of sugar and milk it is miserable stuff indeed, affording no nourishment whatever.

If a warm infusion must be drank, those made, as of old, from our own indigenous herbs would be as good,—balm, ground-ivy, mint, cowslip, or of malt; but tea is bought, and is therefore thought to be something precious. Its origin is, in many cases, mysterious; and many would stare to hear it is merely the leaf of a shrub, and that what is sold to them is often grown at home, or made up of used leaves, re-dried and coloured.

Reverting to the gardener, to the farmer, and to the butcher, for supplies, as our fathers did, instead of dealing exclusively, one week under another, with the grocer-huckster's shops, would make many a family easier, even when wages are low, particularly for the food of children. The advantage of distending their little stomachs is palpable from the thriving of the Irish upon one of the least nutritious of vegetables.

It is necessary here to disclaim any desire to lower the quality of the working man's food, or to substitute anything less nutritious than wheaten flour, meat, and vegetables. In order that these may be more abundant in their dwellings, we would, it is true, banish from them the poor substitutes they themselves, and modern custom, have introduced, and induce the good dames to make the former not only more palatable, but more wholesome, and to go further, which is the art of cookery.

The theory of combustion would, no doubt, be amusing, and, at the same time, teach how to economise fuel. Count Rumford—so familiar to us

in our parlours—has not yet penetrated into humbler dwellings, although the good he conferred by his devotion to this single subject ought to raise his name above those of all the great conquerors that ever existed.

Cookery is essentially a slow process. By-the-by, this fact might be instilled into most English cooks with advantage. Substitute a covered pot for the frying pan, stew slowly instead of boiling quickly, and the same quantity of meat, mixed with carrot, turnip, onion, cabbage, potatoes, barley, &c., instead of flying half up the chimney, and being of less bulk when cooked than before, would furnish a warm and comfortable meal for a family. Where wood is the fuel, a pot of some such ingredients left in the ashes, raked together at night, would supply a breakfast ready for the next morning, to which, in point of nutriment, tea or coffee bears no comparison. If, when food is to be prepared, instead of making up the fire, as cooks say, and evaporating fuel in a temporary blaze, an equal heat were regulated for several hours, and the pot left to

simmer on the hob or in a side oven, if one be attached, while the room was warmed too, a more plentiful meal, and a better temperature, would be had without augmenting their cost.

Experto crede, a bit of horseflesh stewed slowly, and seasoned as above mentioned, has been found, when nothing else could be had, to become tender and palatable—perhaps as much so as many bits of fresh-killed and half-cooked beef.

These points have been dwelt upon as instances to show that useful information may be conveyed, even upon what may be considered stale and familiar to us: they can be given by word of mouth, introduced incidentally, in a mode half playful, half serious, so as to obtain attention, without exciting jealousy of interference, and with more effect than volumes written with the same view. Cobbet published one of his best papers to expose the waste of eternal tea-drinking; but it may be doubted if any good wife ever read it. And

“Should grandeur hear, with a disdainful smile,
The *short* and simple *feedings* of the poor,”

it is humbly submitted, that to feed them is a matter of the first necessity, and a difficulty that may not be got over in the end without absorbing three fourths of all property, unless every means are taken to meet the evil in time.

To proceed with the suggestion of lectures: we may publish penny magazines to all eternity, and there treat of the air-pump, or safety-lamp; but very few of the class for which these papers were kindly projected will *read* upon such abstruse subjects, or, if they read, would be able to comprehend. Place the same objects before their eyes, and show the effects produced by them, the mysteries become clear at once to the meanest capacity: a desire to know more about them will be excited, and information in print be eagerly turned to, with a prospect of being understood. The same effect would occur by explanations of astronomy, geology, botany, perspective, &c. As it is the *results* only of science that are captivating, not the steps of investigation by which they are obtained, it is the results alone that can be rendered familiar to the

general mind ; both leisure and capacity are wanting to wade through the process of arriving at them.

Striking points in history or biography, facts in political economy, or even in that ticklish subject, politics, would tend to assuage many errors and prejudices. Those who cant about entails, and the law of primogeniture, seldom state the real law that regulates them : they omit the fact that any one may bequeath his property as he pleases, when it is not entailed ; that there can be no entail beyond one life in England ; and that an heir unborn at the time of creating the entail can join with a tenant for life in cutting it off when he comes of age. No advocate for universal suffrage ever had the candour to say that if every one had a vote, votes would be comparatively valueless, and confer no distinction.

The extent of trades' unions, consequent upon the act of 1824, which repealed thirty former acts, and swept out of the statute books nearly the last remnant of interference with the rights of operative industry, makes it of importance that the real effect

of combinations to regulate wages and hours of labour should be seen, that so vast a machine should be known in all its bearings, and never be set in motion lightly, and without due caution, lest it crush its own proprietors: the exercise of enlightened discussion is requisite to protect the many from the arts of the designing few.

Let us not forget that there is the same power of reasoning latent in the humblest walks of life as exists in the highest; and that to call it forth in such a way as to prevent its being one sided—to state fairly the bane and antidote that attends human beings—to show how to extract drops of truth from clouds of falsehood, is the surest way to conquer prejudice, and to mitigate unfounded discontent.

Can the gift of speech be applied to a better purpose? Is there any other medium so likely to effect it?

The gratuitous lectures of the late lamented Dr. Mitchell will be long remembered. In his geological researches he was constantly accompanied by young

people, who owed to him not only a love of science, *but success in after-life.*

In the debate upon the hours of labour in factories, May 3d, 1844, Sir Robert Peel uttered these memorable words : “ When we look at those great manufacturing populations, and see no means provided for their amusement or relaxation ; that when we see, as we do see, what were villages become immense towns, and yet subjected to the same discipline as when they were villages ; when we see every space crowded, and no place left where there is an opportunity of amusement or recreation, with nothing to divert them either from constant labour, or the indulgence of sensual habits ;—when we see all this, I admit it is a great evil, and the legislature ought to apply the public wealth to the promotion of their rational enjoyment. Don’t overlook these moral considerations ; give the people the advantage of education, and feel certain that, by weaning them from habits of intemperance and vice, you will *elevate them in the social scale.*”

We can have no higher authority at present.

And what has been already the consequence? Public walks and baths are actually projected in Manchester and other towns, and an act compelling the ventilation and draining of crowded courts and streets has passed.

Let us hope that real instruction will shortly follow, that attention will be turned to supplying facilities for higher acquirements than reading and writing, and that an adequate sum will be applied to this purpose. It may be fairly doubted whether, by making the amusement of knowledge obvious, you will not increase the number of scholars in primary schools more than by the increase of those schools. In 1828 the number of scholars had not increased in so great a proportion as the number of schools. It is as necessary to excite a desire for acquiring any thing as to furnish the opportunity. According to the old saying, "You may show the horse the water, but you cannot make him drink:" a little dose of the salt of knowledge will alone give a thirst for it.

TENANT-FARMERS.

UPON the industry, enterprise, and intelligence of tenant-farmers — the yeomanry of England — the nation is, in great measure, dependant for the very food it consumes. Each individual of so important a body, who, either from idleness or ignorance, relaxes his efforts to get as much from the land as it will produce, not only injures himself, but the public also. Fortunately the stimulant of self-interest drives them to do their utmost, to exert their faculties as far as they go, to put forth all the strength of knowledge they possess. The more, therefore, they attain, the surer will be their own prosperity, and the general welfare.

The size of farms makes it now a matter of head, not of hands, to manage them ; and the labourers they must employ place them in a position requiring

experience, not only of the nature and properties of soils, but of human nature also. To conquer their own prejudices, and to acquire the goodwill, and consequent zealous aid, of those they set to work, is the infallible result of the cultivation of their own minds and manners.

As farmers are in immediate contact with the largest mass of the population, it is from their judgment and correctness in the statement of facts that the means of holding together and preserving the body politic are to be sought. To the enlargement of their views, and to the extinction of their petty and mistaken considerations of self, the country will owe peace and plenty.

Farmers have also ready access to the higher class, their landlords; and, when capable of making judicious representations, and of placing truths in such a light as to show that there is no reservation, or reference solely to themselves, they must receive attention, and obtain cordial co-operation in mitigating the evils of excessive rates and surplus labour.

It has been said that rents are too high. From the farmers alone can it be ascertained whether they are truly so or not. They are, as a body, of sufficient importance to make this manifest; ay, and to regulate them fairly too, if they had sufficient intelligence to do so.

Entering upon a farm is no light matter, and a bargain for it need not be too much in favour of one side if the other be competent to take care of himself; "but there is such competition to get farms that tenants outbid each other." More fools they. There are under 300,000 occupiers of land. To occupy land properly requires capital and skill, without which few landlords would knowingly admit a fresh tenant: consequently, the competition must be augmented, if not occasioned, by the avarice for land, by the desire to occupy a larger extent than before—more, perhaps, than can be managed by one head, and by the same purse, to advantage.

Such blind egotism can be checked by the force of opinion, to be ascertained at public meetings

among themselves. Such meetings also, if discussion at them were conducted with sense, candour, fairness, and liberality, might be the test to prove whether rents are actually excessive or not, and how far the want of leases is injurious. Such a body as the tenants of England have no right to make vague complaints ; they have no occasion to suffer, or to fancy they suffer, any injury or injustice, without previous exertion to prove, both to themselves and to all the world, that they are really "ill-used gentlemen," and, having proved it, then to set about a remedy.

The tenant-farmer was first called into existence by the interruption of the strict feudal system, and has grown up gradually into consideration since its extinction : villanage, services, and payments in kind, were all merged in money-rent, calculated upon the excess of produce above the expenses and profits of the farmer.

The payment of rent in money is both the consequence of civilisation and the promoter of it, as it is received, and held (as it were) in trust, to be

distributed among the producers of articles of luxury, of art, and science. Wealth comes originally from the soil of some country or other ; and it is by the excess — that is, by the rent that passes into the hands of those said to be born only to consume the fruits of the earth—that the multitudes unconnected with the soil live. Even the costly productions of the earth itself — diamonds, wines, silk, &c.,—have their finding, perfecting, and value from the demand of these consumers, and from their being enabled to pay for them.

Rent, also, is the stimulant that compels the tenant to produce. It is, therefore, the interest of all civilised nations that rent should be exacted, and fairly paid, as many a merchant, tradesman, manufacturer, and artist would be cut down if it were not. We might go back again to home-spun clothes, log-huts, and indigenous food.

Grudge not, then, the proportion to each that civilisation has accorded, and leave the lords and the tenants to settle their respective shares, without imagining the former to be of no use to us.

The business of the farmer demands a higher intelligence than that of the retail tradesman. His own happiness requires, at least, the same extent of mental acquirement as a resource during leisure hours, as the solace of sickness and of old age, and as the means of rising to, and of keeping, that position which ought to be the reward of his toil.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

THE preceding remarks upon factory operatives apply to all labourers, both those in towns and those in the country. The agricultural are, however, different in one respect: being more dispersed, they have not the same facility of combination to protect themselves. It is, also, less easy to convey instruction to small villages, hamlets, and lone cottages; nor can the parents or children have such ready opportunities placed in their way of acquiring knowledge, as the inhabitants of towns. As a compensation they have purer air, and more space. The dyspeptic headache, and the epidemic disorders of malaria and confinement, are scarcely known to them.

. It may be more difficult to have them taught: but difficulties are not impossibilities; and if the

tone of minds is raised, and the powers of reasoning increased, in towns, it will be necessary to try, at least, to put countrymen's on a level with them. Both the duty and the vital interest of all landed proprietors and occupiers incite to the promotion of so desirable an object,—if with no other view, to arm them against the insidious attacks of the designing.

It is not uncommon to hear that English peasants are ignorant, stupid, and sullen. Ignorant they may be, from want of opportunity; but to say they are stupid, is totally untrue. Look at our army, which is usually recruited from the idlest, and call to mind the acts of individual bravery, ay, and of shrewdness too, that were displayed during the campaigns in Spain, and in France. Discipline changed the dulled intellects into sharp, and the old soldier who had been a ploughman became, from the impulse of example and of necessity, almost as adept as his officer.

There is emulation, if not ambition, strongly fixed in the British labourer's mind. The ploughman will return to the field in the evening to ad-

mire the straightness of the furrows he has ploughed during the day; the carter driving his team is proud of them, and walks into the town by their side—a dandy in his way; the hedger is proud of the hedge he has plashed neatly, and the reaper of the quantity he can sheave and bind. These are indications far removed from stupidity, but they are qualities which, if not fostered and directed to good, will readily turn to evil. Unfortunately, there is usually a temptation at hand to lead the enterprising young man, who is consequently the best workman, astray — poaching. If he should be out of work, or earning wages inadequate to his real, or fancied wants, to that he turns, and often displays a dexterity and cunning that should be directed to better things.

“ So you would turn poachers into philosophers,” says the squire. “ That would be a soight to see,” says the farmer. I would if I could, and you too.

Which would be preferable,—that your labourers should discuss the positions and influences of the moon and stars in their own chimney corners, or that they should allude to those luminaries at the

beer-shop, in order to decide when they will shine most favourably for the setting or taking up of snares? Moreover, raise their intellects, and you will be obliged to raise your own.

A ploughman, as well as others, must have some subject for conversation; and if anything of interest can be substituted for such themes—as the last fair, the last incendiary fire, the last committal for killing a pheasant, or dexterous escape from gamekeepers—he will be elevated into a superior state, and the morals and manners of all England be elevated with him.

That a cause for sullenness has been growing during the last twenty years, and has been forced into bitter fruit during the last five years, is, alas! asserted with every semblance of truth. Poverty, want, and discontent, walk in our fields, and invade our cottages; the increase of hands and mouths, without an equal increase of employment, is named as the cause. Has not the legislative remedy for another side of the evil doubled the ill effects of this cause?

The abuses of the old poor-law would in the end have confiscated all the landed property in the kingdom; the new poor-law has confiscated the acknowledged right of all the poor to sufficient food, and, with still greater injustice, has taken away that part of adequate wages, which had been foolishly (it must be admitted) made up by parish-pay, without providing any equivalent; thus making the poverty of agricultural labourers almost universal.

Have we not gone too far; and can no middle course be found? Facts foremost.

“Expenditure at the Grocer’s Shop, paying one Week under the other, of an Agricultural Family near Newbury, consisting of a Man, his Wife, and Six Children.—Reports of Poor Law Commission, p. 251. London, 1833.

	s.	d.
7 gallons of bread - - -	9	11
1 lb. of sugar - - -	0	6
2 oz. of tea - - -	0	8
Soap - - -	0	4
Candles - - -	0	4
Salt, pepper, &c. - -	0	2
2 lbs. of bacon - - -	1	4
	<hr/>	
	13	3

Exclusive of fuel, beer, rent, clothes, and other necessities.

As prices are now nearly the same, it is evident that less than 13s. 3d. per week is akin to starvation. Do the generality of able-bodied labourers receive that amount, or near it? No.

To *give* a mass of population food without a return in work, or in production of some sort, is sheer waste; in fact, it would be nearly impossible to continue to do so for any length of time: as the numbers increased, the quantity of food must be increased too, and the burthen upon those who produced it become intolerable. Profitable employment, then, is the thing requisite, which it is difficult to find. Experience seems to direct a search for it to the hand: stone-breaking yards help but little; needle-work, and the rough manufactures carried on in unions, interfere with others, and tend to starve those employed in them out of doors. Land cannot produce too much: the aim, then, should be to make it produce more, by means of those hands, who must have food.

Remedies, or rather palliations, have been tried. The most efficient hitherto has been the allotment

system; that, however, can be but partial : if carried to the requisite extent, it would in the course of years convert England into bits of garden-ground, like a tailor's pattern-book. It is adapted to fathers of families only, and fixes them to the soil : all the unmarried, and all who do not obtain allotments, will be worse off, because, from competition, and from the system of making up wages instead of paying them direct, as they ought to be, those who have allotments will afford to work for less than those who have them not.

The small benefit conferred by them seems to corroborate the supposition that we must go to the land, and by dint of labour and science, extract from it surplus food for the general benefit—somewhat in the same way that spade-cultivated gardens yield to the individuals who get them.

There is a *hint* in an act of parliament that may show us how.

By the 59 Geo. 3. c. 30. "churchwardens and overseers are empowered, with consent of vestry, to hire and take on lease any suitable land not

exceeding twenty acres, and to employ and set to work, on account of the parish, any such persons as by law they are directed to set to work, and to pay to such of the persons so employed by them as shall not be supported by the parish *reasonable wages for their work.*"

No land has ever been hired as this act directs. It has been a dead letter, probably from the limitation to twenty acres. It is not easy to hire so small a lot ; and, if hired, would not repay the expense of management: extend it to from 100 to 200 in parishes, or from 500 to 1000 in unions, and cultivate it by hand, the requisite employment and food for the families of all surplus able-bodied labourers might be supplied.

Land so occupied and cultivated would unite large holding, and scientific farming, with minute distribution ; each labourer would receive his just share of the produce without being tied down to the soil, or having any direct property in it ; thus obviating the objection to small holdings, and ultimate

scramble for them—the evil of which has been manifest in Ireland.

It is not home colonization ; the essence being fair wages, thus keeping the employer and the employed in their respective natural states.

Whether land so cultivated be good, bad, or indifferent, is perhaps immaterial : the good would produce enormous crops ; the worst might be brought to yield by the application of chemical manures, including nightsoil : even Dartmoor and Bagshot Heath might be fertilised. And there are above two million acres of waste land in Britain, which, if made productive, would be national gain : the capital to make them so is the expenditure, now almost unproductive.

Profit and loss are the essential points, which would resolve themselves into the question whether land pays for cultivation or not ? and whether it is preferable to run some risk with a view of getting back the whole, or a part, of what is now laid out with little or no return ? which outlay must with an increasing population increase every year.

After rent, the interest on the stock (at first chiefly of pigs*, perhaps), tools, and the expenses of management are provided for, the wages and maintenance of paupers would be profit, as it would lessen, if not supersede, the payment of rates; tenant's profit would not be looked for, but go entirely towards those wages.

It is obvious, if the poor rates could be lowered, landowners and farmers would be enabled to give higher wages, and would be willing to do so. The pressure of competition in the labour-market being relieved by a new outlet, the English peasant might hold up his head again, and have a fair day's wages for a fair day's work, not eked out by parish pay; and all the good of the old poor-law return, without being alloyed by the abuses of it. The spirit of that law was to find work, but the law, as Mr. Bumble says, "is a hass," to enact an impossibility; what can overseers find that can

* A chemist who would make known a cheap corrective of the objectionable qualities of pig-manure would confer a benefit upon cottagers.

really be called work, when they have neither land nor manufacture to go to?

Such farms would be regular schools of the best sort of industry. At present few of the parish or union children have the chance of being habituated to any employment excepting some small proportion initiated in crafts; the majority are turned out at the age of fourteen or fifteen without having handled a tool of any kind.

It cannot be denied that to cultivate such farms upon a requisite scale would be a great national undertaking — presenting, no doubt, serious difficulties, and requiring in the details great care, and caution, and thought as to the discipline to be enforced, also in the selection of superintendents.

But the evil is great, is entirely national, and one which no partial remedy can meet.

Emigration on an extended scale would be a more efficient check to over-population; it is costly however, slow to be adopted, and has unfortunately been cooled in its progress by mismanagement. So continuous is the chain of society, so linked

together are human events, that finding real work for, and elevating the qualities of, agricultural labourers at home might facilitate the chance of their finding fortune abroad. Suppose a company, or some great capitalist—some second William Penn could be assured of finding youths well brought up, and accustomed to handle the axe, the spade, the pickaxe, and to the routine work on land, would they not have an additional inducement to think of founding a colony? They may in a hardy, docile, and industrious race see the germs of another Pennsylvania. They will know that a great part of the vexation and trouble attached to any such undertaking—all that arising from the idleness and inefficiency of the generality of emigrants will be spared.

Every enterprise in which such strides have been made of late were originally undertaken because appropriate means presented themselves; they are owing to improvement in the requisite tools. The steam-engine of Watt, the machinery of Arkwright and Cartwright, are the real foundation

of every factory mill ; the application of railroads to travelling, their extension all over the kingdom, are consequent upon the perfecting of requisite machinery, from George Stephenson's first locomotive engine down to Captain Handcock's axles and turn-tables : the buildings of the one, and the rails of the other, without them would have been as waste land without proper hands to cultivate it. The fitting tools, and machinery for any extensive pioneer in the wilderness, are hands and hearts formed to labour, and to good conduct ; and the certainty of finding them would suggest the enterprise. Had the town of Adelaide and the colony of New Zealand been originally formed by such pioneer, with such tools, they would in all likelihood have furnished an account on the profit side of the ledger. No undertaking would apparently yield so large a return, both in interest and in honour, as a lot of land well selected out of our numerous possessions, as to access and climate, and portioned out judiciously to a few thousand steady husbandmen, above all fairly, without any job.

English capital has been sent to every corner of the world, frequently on very wild and unsatisfactory errands: laid out upon our own colonial soil, it would be spread as manure, and yield a crop, if we only have the patience to wait for it.

The world was evidently meant to be peopled; and it seems as if Providence intended the excess of the population of old countries to be distributed over the solitudes of new. Nation upon nation has been so founded: how then can we hold possession of boundless wastes, and talk of over-population at home, without taking shame to ourselves for remissness in peopling them?

Whether the real fact be, that England is now over-peopled, or whether it is crowded only in particular spots, and requires merely a more equal distribution of hands, the lowness of wages is evidence that the labour-market is in an unhealthy state. In order to clear up the doubt whether there are actually more mouths than can be fed without resorting to expedients that will end in general pauperism and degradation, every facility should first

be given to the transit of the poor man's only merchandize, his labour, to every home-market that invites it, and profitable employment be rendered accessible to all.

That every country, especially an island, must become in time too crowded, is certain. To these points, then, should our views be steadily directed; and the whole nation be aware that great efforts and sacrifices may be requisite, both to equalise the labour-market at home, and ultimately to seek it abroad : no matters of foreign diplomacy, of internal politics, or mode of raising supplies can be of such vital interest.

If the *hint* given by the statute above mentioned should, upon mature consideration, furnish a key to the enigma, it will be indeed a diamond giving a spark of light in the midst of darkness ; and this humble effort to suggest, that improving the labourer, both as regards his head and his hands, raising his condition, inducing him to rely upon himself, and finding if possible, steady employment at home are the foremost means to preserve the

eminence Great Britain has attained, will not be sneered at.

Both home-employment and emigration, the one promoting the other, to have permanent effect, must be undertaken upon a matured plan, and large scale, under at least the auspices of government, and be a vast and simultaneous national effort.

Waiting for a great remedy, for a great evil does not, however, exonerate individuals from doing, in the mean time, all the good they can to their poor neighbours and dependants: there are various ways of assisting, even when money-wages are lower than they ought to be. Fuel, that essential ingredient in all housekeeping economy and comfort, may be brought within reach, and *sold* at prime cost—not by fits and starts, but regularly, so as to be counted upon: there is comparative ease in the coal districts upon equal wages. Pigs might be furnished in the same way, without loss to the farmer or landlord; vegetables, where gardens or allotments are wanting; and cows be let for milking.

It is preferable to put useful articles in the cot-

tagers' way, and to *sell* to them at prices within their means: *giving* any thing—above all, forcing upon them, unsought advice, is often misapplied, though well-meant kindness. Labourers, as well as mechanics and operatives, are not paupers; and fostering all the feelings of station they retain is a step towards preventing their becoming so. Of these, employment and fair pay is the due. Having that, afford them facilities for obtaining instruction, *give* them motives for economy and good conduct, and you do what is needful. *Giving* money casually and capriciously humiliates, and may do more harm than good, in the same way as any sudden acquisition, by gaming for instance, often spoils a steady rational gentleman or tradesman.

It is, on the other hand, superfluous to give books to those who want bread, or the opportunity of washing linen to those who have none: food and shelter are all-in-all to such poor creatures, and they must have them, or die. A system of relief discriminating properly between actual wants from age, sickness, or incapacity to work, and the able-

bodied and willing, would perhaps leave funds sufficient, with lower poor-rates than at present, to meet all cases of absolute want, if assisted by the means of turning to account the labour of the able-bodied; and if by any possibility the earnings of the able and willing could become adequate to their own humble wants, many who are now obliged to go to the parish would be kept from it by relations and neighbours—as the poor, in a natural state, are kind to each other.

Charity, particularly if attempted on an extended scale, beyond a well-known few, requires judgment, and an acquaintance with, and conformity to, the habits of its objects. Some years ago a gentleman's house in Sussex was almost stormed, because soup was distributed with carrots in it: prejudices, it is true, have diminished since that time; and many females may now be selected who might be *led* to adopt a more rational mode of feeding children than is practised, who would not be dictated to or driven.

An Italian nobleman wished to introduce the

potato as a substitute for chesnuts, formerly the staple and very precarious food of the Apennines: he procured a quantity and distributed them as seed, offering, at the same time, a reward to that mountaineer who brought him the best supply, to be used at his own table. He was gratified by seeing crops growing during the ensuing summer, and wondered that the offered reward was not claimed as soon as the roots were dug up. Upon inquiry, he found that, having been themselves tempted to try what the lord seemed to covet, they had guessed his kind intention, and that their elders were, at the moment, busy in organising a deputation to wait upon and thank him, but to decline any reward, as the prospect of a plenty, unknown before, was reward enough.

Constant employment at fair wages, without reference to the parish, or to any other mode of eking them out, is, after all, the essence of judicious charity; in truth, it is above even charity, being strict justice—awakening a sense of independence and property that reconciles to hardship and toil,

and being the antidote to that ill-humour and discontent which a feeling of unfairness engenders.

Medical assistance and medicines should be always accessible, and be supplied either gratis or at a low rate. It is bad economy to allow an attack of illness to grow into confirmed disorder, or an accident to disable that might be cured by timely aid, thereby saving the expense of maintaining for life the confirmed invalid or cripple. The disorders of the poor usually arise from exposure, or lowness of diet; consequently, strengthening medicines, unfortunately rather expensive, are requisite, and nourishing food. The village doctor should nevertheless have the power of supplying them as unlimited as can be, checked only by his own respectability, and by good looking after. The applications for aid in cases of accident or sickness should be made direct to him in the first instance, and be attended to without waiting for an order from any parish officer. He might be bound to report, and to give in his bill to be investigated as soon as possible. Economy, in the end, would result from

paying medical men properly, instead of contracting with them, and paying less to neglect, or to render them unable to afford, to supply to poor patients either the time or the drugs that would give a chance of cure.

From time immemorial assistance has been looked for, and gratefully received, at the period of lying-in—the most interesting of woman's existence. To the respectable matron, to the wife, this should be invariably given. The hardest heart must sympathise with females on such occasions,—so much so, that even the erring may be spared the miseries of actual want, in consideration of the anguish of mind they endure in addition to bodily pains. The virtuous may frown at this, and consider themselves entitled to cast the first stone. But—

A female was lying upon the cold ground,
An infant crept close to her side ;
She held forth her hand, and in murmuring moan,
Half stifled by shame, gently cried,
“ I'm deserted by one I, alas ! loved too well.”
Her tale and her error were clear.
Was I wrong to relieve ? let the casuist tell ;
But I saw — through the lens of a tear.

All err more or less ; and if want should ensue,
 More keenly the fault we regret :
 Each cold look we meet will upbraid us anew,
 Self-blame still forbids to forget.
 As imprudence its own double punishment brings,
 Both the heart and the body to sear,
 Grief of heart is atonement ; then poverty's stings
 May be viewed—through the lens of a tear.

LANDLORDS.

WALTER SCOTT, in one of his most charming essays, that on landscape gardening, says : " The notable paradox, that the residence of a proprietor upon his estate is of as little consequence as the bodily presence of a stockholder upon Exchange, has, we believe, been renounced."

The benefit to be conferred upon labourers depends upon the disposition of a resident landlord : if he employ a number at fair wages, the labour of the whole neighbourhood will be raised ; if he be a churl, and employ only the same number as would be required by a tenant, if the mansion and grounds were let, and if he haggle about a shilling or two a-week in wages, his absence would scarcely be regretted by the peasantry. There are few mansions left absolutely vacant ; and impoverished and greedy

owners are the least likely to leave them so: a renter who could afford to live in them would, as consumer, be the same as his landlord to the neighbouring shops, and farmers, but might not lay out his money in improvements as a spirited owner would.

Those great pluralists who have several mansions and estates, and visit them only occasionally, ought to take care that at each as many hands be employed in their absence as during their presence. Every owner of land ought to see with his own eyes, at least once a-year, that every cottage on his property is in thorough repair: it would be better to mark them as his own by their substantial appearance, and by the increase of comfort within, than by sticking a Crescent upon the doors, as may be seen in a northern county.

The most lasting act of kindness that could be conferred upon cottagers would be to put into their one room stoves of the best construction for economising fuel, with an oven attached to them: the common French stove, that is heated with a few

billets of wood, and which, when the valve is shut keeps an apartment warm many hours, is well adapted to countries where wood is the fuel. When we see women and children wending their way home with a bundle of dry sticks on their heads, it is sad to think that in an open chimney all the proceeds of such care and toil will evaporate in one short-lived blaze,—a striking example that joys are fleeting.

Landlords who refuse to grant leases from a motive of retaining political or any other influence; those who ever think of turning out a tenant, not on account of his conduct as a farmer, but on account of his opinions as a citizen, deserve to lose all their rents, and to have their estates deteriorated. To permit a chance comer to outbid an old tenant, or to accede to the enlargement of the holding of one by the expulsion of another, for the sake of a few pounds a year, is ignoble, and frequently no gain in the end. The influence of enlightened landlords is highly beneficial, as it makes an estate parcelled out to a substantial tenantry the most productive distri-

bution of land : they have the power to require an exact return of the number of hands employed by each tenant, and to regulate with him the just proportions of the produce of the soil, with reference to rent, outlay, and profit : they will not submit to be misled themselves, or permit the children of toil to be overlooked ; they will listen with the impartiality of a judge, and be as able to extract truth from the evidence before them. Such duties done cause the prosperity of the owner himself, and of all around him. Surely it is as requisite that property in land should be well managed as the capital of the merchant or tradesman : he who looks to nothing beyond grasping an exorbitant rent, which cannot be permanent, is much the same as the wild speculator who risks his all injudiciously.

The preservation of game, and the love of field-sports, is so old an English habit that few can wish it to be abolished : like other desires, it is hurtful, if carried to excess ; in moderation it should not be prejudicial. We have tried severity of punishment for encroachments on this sort of property for

centuries, and thousands of pounds have been laid out on gamekeepers and law with little effect : suppose conciliation and liberality were to be tried, they might be more effectual and less expensive. If game-preservers were to distribute fuel and beef at periods, or to give a feast to all comers once or twice a year, provided no poaching took place, they would have more keepers, female as well as male, headed by self-interest and good will, than they can have for the money now spent in wages and in prosecutions. They are obliged to conciliate the farmer, otherwise nests would be trod upon, and leverets destroyed, with impunity. Why not try the same thing with the rest of the neighbourhood ? If it fail, there would at least be more excuse to themselves for reverting to the old system.

If tenants who neglect their farms are bad citizens, and their own enemies, what can be said of owners who do not try to improve their estates, who do not endeavour to make the capabilities of the soil keep pace with the increase of mouths, and with their own demands of rent ? That

they are public nuisances, and that they never heard—"From him that hath, much shall be required."

But the kind and judicious landlord is one of the most useful and most respected members of society.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

LIFE dawns with more flattering brightness upon the children of those who have inherited or attained fortune, including a long category of many gradations, from the retired tradesman up to the highest noble ; and since the days of bandageing, stifling, and drugging infants have nearly passed away, their advantages are not neutralised by nurses deciding whether the little helpless creatures shall have room to grow and air to breathe. The climate of Britain (much abused as it has been) is favourable to the development of man ; in few others can violent exertion or exposure be undergone with so little risk of health : the people were always a robust race.

If the old saying “as crooked as a lord” had any foundation—in fact, if Hogarth’s representation of

the Heir of Squanderfield be that of a class, that class had deteriorated ; the cause for which may be traced in the queer little objects of dressed-up children portrayed by the same great master of actual life, and in the vices of their parents.

To the great change that has taken place both in nursing and in manners during nearly a century, may be attributed the present appearance of the upper classes—which Mr. N. P. Willis stated to be the handsomest in form, and most intellectual in countenance, he had seen : the American might, however, have paid this compliment as a set-off against his publication of private conversations.

It is certain that the lovely mothers of the present day attend to their pleasing duties with more zeal and sense than their grandmothers did ; and few of their offspring are unprepared both in body and in mind to go to school with advantage at the age of eight or nine years. All those—and they are an immense majority—who feel how much they owe to maternal care and tenderness may

have a stronger and more delightful sensation of gratitude, if they reflect on the effects produced by the early training of the present and rising generation upon national manners, morals, and happiness. The old novels and comedies portray a coarse and dissolute race, now nearly extinct. Squire Western, Lady Wishfort, Lord Foppington, although exaggerations perhaps, must have been drawn from life; at all events, no one would now sit patiently to listen either to the sentiments or language they uttered. We owe this to female sway—to the improved taste, to the virtues, and to the prevailing respectability of British women: they really do what Montaigne recommended in vain 300 years ago—commence education from the cradle, not only correcting the temper and forming the manners, but sowing the seeds also of those tastes and occupations that preserve from idleness and vice. The generality of children of ten years old know more than their great grandsires knew at threescore: and this apparently precocious talent is the natural result of early instruction; is not confined to supe-

rior natural abilities, but pervades the whole of the educated classes.

The example, the persuasion, the conversation of mothers generally, impart knowledge of some kind ; and as even stupid children are eager to be informed when they can obtain information in a way adapted to their capacities, they get from so pure a source some of the right kind ; they are not subjected to long set tasks, that create a distaste for any sort of application as they grow up, but, by the judicious alternation of an easy and pleasing occupation of the mind with play and exercise, imperceptibly acquire a habit of thinking, and unite, as far as nature will permit, sound intellect with a sound body,—parental legacies far exceeding in value any fortune they may inherit ; they gain, in reality, many days of after-life, as they have less correction to undergo, and have little or nothing to unlearn.

The discipline of schools is also improved : the system of terror prevalent fifty years ago has been relaxed ; boys are treated more as rational beings, their hearts and limbs as well as their heads are

cared for, and general improvement is the happy result. The benefits conferred by such men as Dr. Arnold will be felt and appreciated by all succeeding generations.

Although maternal instruction from the earliest dawn of reason, and the progress made in the nursery and home-schoolroom usually lay the foundation of taste for accomplishments, science, and general literature, classical knowledge is still the criterion of a scholar. It is, no doubt, requisite for the three learned professions—Divinity, Law, and Physic; but others who have been too exclusively and pedantically bound to it may have a new course to commence when life is opening its busy scenes, and when they have neither time nor relish for other studies.

The dead languages are either extremely difficult, or the antiquated mode of teaching is the cause of so many years being devoted to them, frequently with imperfect effect. Few attain eminence: the majority retain a mere smattering, or forget them altogether, after from five to eight

years at school, and four or five at college. Moderate abilities could acquire most of the languages of Europe in half the time. Even schoolmasters, who spend their lives in parsing and conjugating, seldom attain real correctness and facility of expression in Greek and Latin.

Languages are the means to an end, and, like other rudiments, are acquired in youth with facility. Why is Latin an exception to this, or Greek either? Does it arise from their being buried deep in death, or from the mode of teaching?—a question well worth the attention of teachers. If some shorter cut, and surer road, could be hit upon by which to arrive at these languages, youths of the average rate of abilities would be enabled to acquire other essential branches of knowledge—in which they are behind the youth of other countries. One part of the process seems eminently antique—that of requiring all lads to make Latin and Greek verses, whether they have a turn for poetry or not—a superfluous racking of the brains of the multitude, devoid of genius, who, if they mastered the

language, are incapable, by nature, of applying it to that purpose.

The Latin and Greek poets, too, are learnt before their beauties can be appreciated : the poetical is not the easy colloquial part of any language ; neither do Ovid, Virgil, or Horace impart any very useful knowledge either in historical facts or morals, which might as well be imbibed together with the language itself. Lads often leave school better versed in the heathen mythology, and in mere fiction, than in truths of deeper and more important interest.

The rarity of excelling may perhaps give the palm to the classical scholar ; his eminence, however, if unproped by professional or other qualities, is confined to England only. The nobleman, the gentleman, the soldier, sailor, and merchant, should be fitted to take a high position in society in any country, and they often discover that their school routine is no lift to them in their intercourse with enlightened foreigners.

If this routine be rather slow, and not altogether

adapted to those who must enter early into the world, there are other compensating benefits to be derived from public schools : by collision with their mates the selfish are checked, and the self-sufficiency engendered by indulgence at home, and the flattery of dependants, is brought to its proper level : the bold learn discretion, the shy and timid are emboldened by being habituated to some of the rubs of life ; greediness and meanness are scouted ; boys are imperceptibly impressed with a desire for character, and feel that their conduct then will stick to them through life : they also acquire hardihood ;—that power of enduring fatigue and hardships peculiar to the British gentleman on trying occasions may be traced to the national games—to the swimming, rowing, and running, which few young Frenchmen, Italians, Spaniards, or even Germans, practise. Skill in games frequently raises boys, otherwise idle and dull, into some

PROFESSIONS.

FROM the various schools come the members of professions, which are composed of the younger sons of the rich, and of all the sons of those in easy circumstances, as a considerable sum must be expended in qualifying aspirants. Sometimes, indeed, we hear of poor, but ambitious, parents, who pinch themselves to raise their sons,—impressed by the fact, that entering a profession gives at once the stamp of gentility, entitles to admission into any society, and is the broad way to rank and station. There is no want of instances of such being attained, from Wolsey to Eldon.

The British aristocracy has withstood rude assaults and insidious attacks by having lost sight of its feudal origin ; subject to constant renewal, it has not become old and worn out ; it is anything

but exclusive; even the bench of bishops, which might have been usurped by powerful families, is open to all, and is rarely occupied by mere birth. In the laborious studies and practice of the bar, and of the physician, those frequently flag who begin with means beyond the competence necessary for their support; and as intrigue is useless, and as success depends solely upon integrity, industry, and ability, they rise as they richly merit, and are the stay and ornament of their country. Among the numerous complaints of the encroachments of wealth and power, suspicion of the uprightness of a British judge is unheard of; and the eminent physician earns his large income amid the applause and blessings of the public.

The army and navy are necessarily more open to examples of rising by patronage; but in these merit is seldom obscured whenever opportunity occurs to show itself. Purchasing promotion in the former has long excited the wonder of foreigners, and is misunderstood by many natives. It is, in fact, only a sensible way of turning unavoidable

corruption to account, and of regulating, and doing publicly, that which had been done clandestinely, that which could scarcely be prevented. There is as much competition for promotion by purchase as without, and very few are advanced who are not fully competent to their duty, no more than among such numbers would happen if purchase were unknown; nor are those devoid of means utterly excluded, as was shown during the last war: on the contrary, many obtained by it a provision for old age without expense to the public, as, after twenty years' service, officers are entitled to sell their commissions. The conduct of British officers and soldiers upon great, indeed upon all, occasions is an answer to cavil upon this or any other point.

The feats of the navy are too conspicuous to require mention; and the names of Howe, Hood, Nelson, Collingwood, Jarvis, Cochrane, &c., show, without fear of contradiction, that merit ever achieves greatness in this truly national profession.

The glance at life would be imperfect that took in only those arrived at the highest round of the

ladder, and overlooked the numbers struggling below. In all professions many work on without obtaining even competence: they are great lotteries, in which abilities, not chance, gain the prizes; and the scale and value of them are very justly graduated according to merit: those who draw the blanks are fitted for more mechanical callings, and can console themselves for the mistaken choice, with the simple honour of belonging to them.

Literature has grown into an honourable and profitable profession since it shook off the trammels of private patronage; it has laboured to excite a public demand, and that demand is the reward of its gifted labourers.

Newspapers, from the same cause, have attained powerful influence: their more correct and higher tone has made them almost one of the necessities of life. Why, even now, does one have double the circulation of others? Because it is more independant, and is conducted with more spirit and ability.

In all other professions it is the same. The diplomatist will cut but a sorry figure unless equal

to the duties of his mission ; the merchant, the manufacturer, the engineer, the painter, sculptor, musician, and actor, are all dependant upon their own exertions, and rise to wealth and distinction solely by dint of their own industry and genius. Professional mediocrity merely exists ; those who stand forth superior live honoured and rewarded.

NOBILITY AND GENTRY.

THERE is no station so high that the individual born to it may not rise. Elizabeth of England and Frederick of Prussia made themselves great, and distinguished from the herd of kings. The highest peer, who has nothing but his ancestry to boast of, is small in the general eye, and lives and dies like the ploughman, unknown beyond his immediate circle: his great advantage is, having the power to do good, should nature have denied him the power of becoming great; his wealth will widen the circle of his name, which his abilities would confine; his very bearing and deportment will gain more upon all he comes in contact with than a pedigree from the Conqueror, or the possession of half a county.

The peer without wealth, excepting his seat in the House of Peers, privilege from personal arrest,

of being tried by his peers, and of walking out of a room first, has not the power or influence of the rich commoner, who may also obtain similar privileges by a seat in the lower house of Parliament. Whether wealth consist of land, of stock, or of capital of any other description, if unaccompanied by talent or merit of some kind, it certainly floats on the surface, but is not lifted conspicuously above the waves around. Ancient lineage also, appreciated as it is, because it is peculiar and unattainable, is eclipsed in public by abilities well directed.

It is the privilege of the British people that all the roads to eminence are open : there are certainly turnpikes to be paid, which birth and inherited wealth may clear with more facility at starting ; but talents and industry are the coin that becomes more current towards the end, that passes by, and arrives first at, the goal : it is having such goal constantly in view that makes the English so indefatigable and enterprising ; it is the prospect of distinction and the security of wealth, when attained, that incites so generally to strive to attain it.

Whatever the theory of equality may say to the contrary, the distinctions of rank and title were a happy invention, thoroughly accordant to the nature of mankind, and an outward sign of that desire which is implanted within; making them hereditary fosters also the most potent instinct—parental affection. Who toils merely for his own sake? Wealth is sought not so much with a view to the enjoyment for one short life, but with the hope of leaving it to children, and of founding a family: it was not unwise to make a more honourable and national reward descend in the same manner.

The English and other modern nations differ from the ancients in this respect, who had no positive titles of nobility; they bestowed, instead, the laurel and oaken garland on merit and valour—cheap, but highly-prized rewards, which have been imitated by the institution of orders of distinction—those of Chivalry, the Legion of Honour, the Orders of the Garter and of the Bath, by crosses and medals. These operate as stimulants to a nobler ambition

and higher excellence than money can purchase, which is employed on all baser occasions. The valet and postilion are paid; wealth is the remuneration of the vilest offices, and may be given to the flatterer, the informer, and the spy: it is natural, therefore, that the higher and finer aspirations of virtue and valour should seek a coin more pure and rare.

Whether a mark of distinction be attached to the name, or to the person, if deservedly earned, it is precious to the wearer, and respected by all who are sufficiently worthy and enlightened to be above the littleness of envy, especially in a nation where it is attainable by every one who can raise himself high enough to reach it.

As, however, these honourable recompences acquire their value and estimation by being confined to the comparatively few of real merit, they are destroyed by being made too common. Fallible human judgment must sometimes err, and false appearances usurp the place of worth; when this is the case, and when the *marked* are not too nume-

rous, counterfeits, by being conspicuous, are soon detected, and draw down the derision that is raised by daws in peacocks' feathers. This countervails and corrects the apparent objection to hereditary rank: noblemen whose education has been neglected, who have low tastes, and are unworthy, can rarely avoid the finger of scorn: noble parents have the strongest motive to bring up their children well; and the children, after a few months at school, where all are much on a level, are impressed with a wholesome dread of derogating from their station.

Although there is no absolute line drawn between patricians and plebeians in Britain, it is something to be born a gentleman: and the country squire holds one of the happiest positions in the world; he is neither too high nor too low—he need not keep up any state to interfere with his tastes if they are simple, or to hurt his fortune if it is moderate; he can enter any society on a footing undeniable, or seek retirement amid the scene of his duties and of his interests: if ambitious, for himself he can try Parliament; if for his family, they are received fa-

vourably into all professions, and are readily preferred to situations either at home or in the colonies.

To become the possessor of land, and acquire the consideration it confers, is the aim of many ; it is a defined object for those of moderate desires, and for those who wish to stand out among those around them, but who feel themselves, from disinclination or want of aptitude, unequal to struggle for this distinction in town.

In a kingdom virtually self-governed there are numerous employments that give credit to those who obtain them, and which are consequently landmarks and points of sight to the eyes of the different gradations of ambition ; the magistrate is one of the first of them : how much the welfare of a neighbourhood depends upon his integrity, knowledge, and sound sense.

The old French aristocracy committed the gross errors of denying the power of their absolute king to make a *roturier* noble, of grasping most employments of honour and profit, and of usurping privileges (such as exemption from taxation), that

became intolerable. They called their countrymen "canaille taillable et corvéable," and they were crushed. How different is the state of England, where every species of ability finds its level, and all sorts and sizes of understanding find fitting occupations.

The effect of a representative legislature, and of the general system of meetings for the transaction of affairs, is to make distinction personal, and to cause what we do ourselves to throw into the shade what we derive from others. It is the constant demand which gives such currency and value to the art of public speaking, and that awards pre-eminence to those skilled in debate. In so busy a swarm it is necessary to be something, or to do something; the universal questions "Who is he? what is he?" are difficult to answer when a person has no distinguishing name, is no more than the possessor of a moderate fortune, and has done nothing.

All, however, cannot attract public notice, nor must the enjoyments of private life, that poets have sung and philosophers coveted and extolled, be forgotten, or be supposed not to exist; there are

placid natures who have no desire beyond it. But as social intercourse is the solace of life from its beginning, the most humble have a minor but laudable ambition—a pervading desire to get (as it is called) into society. A youth selects his intimates from among those of congenial pursuits, and much the same partiality lasts to age: in manhood a desire to see and to know mankind is more general; and although society may be good without any mixture of rank, even the indolent look upwards in this respect.

There is scarcely a town or village where society is not graduated. London is divided into sets; and to pass from one to another is often a desire not easily gratified.

Female influence is legitimately omnipotent; and as visiting and intercourse are the occupation of ladies, it is indispensable, to be pleasing to them, to have a chance of admission into the circles they form and adorn. The first recommendation is necessarily exterior—the eye and ear are the videttes to reconnoitre a new acquaintance; there-

fore some attention to dress, and a great deal to address, should be given ; a fascinating manner and pleasing voice win at first, and often palliate mediocrity awhile ; a provincial or vulgar dialect, an awkward deportment, are prejudicial even to the lion of the day, and operate as an exclusion to talent itself ; they are as disgusting to the eye and ear of refinement as coarse food is to the palate of the epicure : therefore those who wish to enter society must begin by fitting themselves for it. Laws are made to restrain the vicious and the violent ; forms of politeness are observed to curb the selfish and low-minded : thousands pass through life without having occasion to be personally acquainted with laws : politeness should be ever present and familiar to all, should sit with us at the family fire-side, and must walk forth with us into the world. A gentleman should be surrounded by the Graces, nymphs whose first aliment is a good disposition, and good morals, whatever an old nobleman may have written to the contrary.

There are apparently arbitrary rules of etiquette

familiar to those born to a silver fork, and soon acquired by others with common observation. Ease of deportment and manner are often innate in the upright heart and elegant mind. The unpractised, if otherwise polite, will be excused trifling errors, such (for instance) as telling his address aloud in an assembly, instead of giving his card to a servant; but want of manner in persons of birth, as is sometimes the case, is a sorry sight. The Duchess of Gordon declared Burns to be one of the most fascinating men she ever met; his manner as well as his genius came from nature.

There are other qualifications requisite to keep a footing in society, where all must contribute to the stock of entertainment; the first is to shine in conversation. Dr. Johnson, dogmatic and bearish as he was towards some, was generally sought and courted for his talents, and always exerted himself to amuse and to instruct; his maxim was, that relating short tales or anecdotes was most winning: Lord Chesterfield, on the other hand, pronounced story-telling a bore; the inference is, that one

related well, and the other could not. There is a higher authority than either—Talleyrand, whose inexhaustible fund of information upon all persons and events, told as he told, was fascinating indeed. He possessed in perfection what the French (who excel in social intercourse) have termed *l'art de raconter*.

He who can tell anything novel, and of interest, will attract notice, particularly in general company, where the usual subjects among intimates—the sayings and doings of friends and relatives—are very uninteresting, from the guests knowing or caring little about them. How often public characters, and actors, are brought upon the carpet on such occasions by those whose only knowledge of the one is from newspapers, and of the other from play-bills, from want of something else to talk about. It sometimes happens that men of undoubted talents and profound learning do not shine in conversation. La Fontaine was said to have been the cleverest of men among stupid people, and the most stupid in company of wits; this

arose from sheepishness. An opposite extreme, too much self-confidence, lifts up a Doctor upon stilts, and causes him to harangue instead of converse. To communicate agreeably and familiarly is a habit fashioned, in the first instance, by good nature, and which, though worn through life, is never stained by selfishness; it does not assume an air of protection, and seem to descend to the trivial with ladies, or with those it fancies to be shallow, but takes all subjects as they arise, content to give and to take, to listen as well as to talk. "Conversation is but carving" said Swift;—

" And that you may have your due,
Let your neighbours carve for you."

As true politeness does not confine itself to its commerce with the high, but is retained in communicating even with servants, a well-bred man never forgets himself in whatever company chance may throw him. His conversation is of many degrees, and adapts itself to all. He can talk with a neighbour of his farm, his game, or his lawsuit,

with seeming interest, with a carpenter of his trade, or with a gardener of his fruit. Kings win the affection of subjects of the highest rank and talents by knowing the affairs, and entering upon the views and pursuits, of those they speak to—a circumstance which birth, wealth, and talent should not forget.

It is necessary to dance, not like a professor, but with the quiet grace of a gentleman: to be expert in various games, both those of society, and those of chance, is a recommendation; the latter, however, are dangerous, and should be avoided if possible, particularly when any propensity to gaming is latent. Drawing and music are both feathers in the cap of youth, and resources in age. Drawing and painting may be cultivated with satisfaction, so as to equal even the first artists, but music has its drawbacks. Ladies may excel in it, and ought to do so, considering the time they devote to its acquirement—gentlemen, also, if they confine the exhibition of it to the drawing-room. A good voice, and after-dinner song, are frequently pass-

ports to another kind of society, and lead to repetitions of excess.

Giving dinners is almost an accomplishment; so is being a welcome guest at them. The dinners of elegant life are not devoted to the mere purpose of gross feeding; they are a combination of arts, where the nobler senses are as much gratified as the palate. The accomplished guest has no professional pedantry—is not confined to a single subject, but with easy manner, and good style, flits from the grave to the gay, and adapts himself to the tastes of those around him.

Many try to push themselves forward by flattery—the genius of the mean: although proverbially insinuating, great discretion and tact are requisite in its application; and if those who descend to use it present a daub like a sign-board instead of the delicate touches of a Watteau, they are seen through and despised.

Some adopt eccentricity: it is easier to be eccentric in dress than in manner and opinions; consequently when lace embroidery and bag-wigs went out,

beaux were more at a loss to shine—even after these ugly types of vanity had been confined to court-dress only, at the beginning of the present century, pigtails, powder, and oddity remained : many will recollect Montague Matthew, with a bushel of scented flour on his head, and a roll of cravat like a shawl round his throat ; Lumley Skeffington, of many-coloured under-waistcoats ; Sir Thomas Stepney, with his striped silk stockings in all weathers ; and George Hanger, Lord Coleraine, with a club in his hand, and a club of hair behind his head. Scarcely any thing of the sort is seen now ; the better taste and simplicity of modern dress has driven it away : all improvements strive to go back to nature.

Extravagance is another resource : to astonish the natives by profusion is exceedingly consoling to aspiring youth ; luckily the spendthrift, while he ruins himself, does some good to others by dispersing his money : in that view he is preferable to the miser, who is known to nobody but his banker's clerk.

Some parents wish their sons to buy their way into high life—these are usually duped by pretenders to fashion, and are thrown back to where they were. Some fathers, when tottering to the grave, refuse their sons any participation in their wealth, in what they can neither use or enjoy themselves. It is difficult to say which is the silliest of the two, but it is easy to decide that the latter is the more selfish and brutal; the motives of both are despicable.

When those who have obtained their property by descent deny their children the advantages fortune gave, refuse to aid them to keep their station, and make them linger on, wasting their best days for the sole purpose of accumulation, they should be told, as Ben Jonson sent word to James the First, “that their souls live in an alley.” Parents who began life in poverty, and have raised themselves to affluence, should consider that the instincts of their children must be different from their own: the force of early habit laid the foundation of their wealth; they grew rich by saving, by being obliged

to look to every farthing of their expenditure, which was no hardship to them, as they knew no other lot, and were ignorant of luxury. As they acquire they indulge themselves with a good house, good living, and servants ; and their children are cradled in the midst of ease and luxury. The injunction, therefore, “to take care of their pence” is by them unfelt and incomprehensible. When we hear these upstarts say “they worked hard, so shall their sons—that their money is their own, that it shall not be thrown away by idle young men, and that they will keep it,” we reflect with glee that they cannot carry it out of the world with them. But liberal fathers are loved and revered ; and those sons must have bad hearts indeed who neglect, and who, if led astray, do not return to the arms open to receive them. By such fathers good principles are generally instilled into children, and both find the advantage of early habits, of confidence, and affection.

Such a man was the merchant who, upon being informed by a busy-body that his son was ex-

pensive in his habits, replied, "Very likely ; money is of little use to me at my age, and it must in a short time be all his own : if he chooses to spend it, I can only wish him as much pleasure in doing so as I had in making it."

Pretension of any sort is certain to make itself ridiculous, particularly that of talking of great acquaintance, or of being related to grand folk. It is odd enough that there is no English word to express this common foible : it is not exactly pride, which looks down upon others, nor vanity, which is entirely personal ; it, however, acquired a name among a small set from the following circumstance : —A young man, rather conceited, and not over wise, came to his brother's house during his absence, and heard that he was gone to Doles Lodge. He immediately directed all the letters on the table to that place. On his return the next day, the brother, annoyed at not finding them, as he expected, naturally inquired the motive ; getting no satisfactory answer, and knowing the bias towards anything that had a sound, he declared that it must

have been done solely for the sake of writing *Doles* Lodge upon them. Thus, talking of any grand connection, or place, has been called *doles* ever since.

English society, with all its refinements, is not exclusive. It is true that mere wealth without other recommendation, whether brought from India or acquired at home, may pant after admission into the best in vain, may offer entertainments to no purpose; what can it give that is not common to the great and rich, and with which they are satiated? But talents and accomplishments will make their way, and, united with good address, are a universal passport.

Theodore Hook was but lately a living instance of this, whose wit and tact made him a coveted guest in every house in Britain.

A more singular example was George Brummell, who was of no particular family, and began life a cornet of dragoons, with a moderate fortune. How it happened that he, whose characteristics seem to have been affectation and impudence, was not only

sought, but became the arbiter of fashion, is difficult to say. His taste in dress was, to be sure, excellent, and he improved the cut of coats, and introduced starching cravats; he was also brought forward at first by the Prince of Wales, but he survived the royal frown, and was still paramount after banishment from Carlton House. He must have possessed some indescribable attraction; and had he been thoroughly honest, he would long have continued supreme: unfortunately he was not, and ended his days in misery and in exile.

There is a person whose name will not be mentioned, as he is still living — and long may he live! — whose career shows undeniably how open the power of rising is to the very lowest: he was a prize-fighter, an occupation in itself degrading; then he became a bettor on the turf — very little, if at all, above it: in this calling he amassed a fortune, and rose to be a member of parliament. His manners always were those of a finished gentleman, and his reputation and character have remained unstained: he is both liked and respected.

Thomas Holcroft, the son of a shoemaker, was first a stable-boy and jockey, and an enthusiast in the art of horsemanship. As he grew up he acquired a passion for music, then was zealous as a connoisseur in pictures. Although ardent in everything he undertook, he had reverted to his father's calling, and was still a shoemaker at the age of twenty-five. Soon after he became enamoured of the stage, but had little success as an actor,—Nature, that gave him the head to perceive, having denied him voice and figure to represent characters. He then devoted himself to writing, and produced, among many others, an excellent comedy, that still survives; also novels, various translations, and other productions of literature. The most prominent action of his life was surrendering himself to take his trial for high treason after a grand jury had found a bill on which he was to be tried for his life. He was discharged after three of the twelve included with him in the same indictment had been acquitted.

It would not have been extraordinary if such a man had become a first-rate jockey or shoemaker,

but it is singular that he should attain eminence as an author, that he should be welcomed among the literati of his day, both at home and abroad, and put himself on a level with them.

Both to rise in life, and to rise in society, to obtain competence and fortune, and to be well received either among small or extensive circles, are a man's own work. Fortune is often blamed unjustly, as the chances and opportunities she presented may not have been taken advantage of. Seizing on them to good purpose is the great distinction between the persevering and the lazy, the well-conducted and the reverse. Success belongs to industry and ability in every walk of life; and honesty and integrity are happiness. These, with a temper not to be ruffled by slight disappointments, or soured by the rubs that all encounter, are the real foundations of enjoyment: possessing them, "We live while we live."

THE END.

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